



Elevate Leadership Program: Des Moines

The Elevate Leadership Program is designed for all talent at various points in their careers looking to sharpen their leadership skills, expand their professional network, and drive impact within their organizations. Elevate your career with a program that blends learning, networking, and real-world application.

Why Elevate?

In today's evolving professional landscape, strengthening leadership capabilities and building strategic connections are critical. Elevate helps participants enhance their leadership presence and influence, develop strategies for work-life integration, and expand their networks and support systems across industries.

Elevate helps participants:

- Enhance leadership presence and influence in their organizations.
- Expand their network and support system across industries.
- Develop strategies for work-life integration and executive presence.

Hear from the graduates!

"I really enjoyed the program - and the amount of new information learned. Loved it!"

"It was enlightening to hear the unique career experiences of everyone in the program - it gave me a lot of perspective."

"The Elevate Leadership Program offered valuable insights into effective leadership and personal growth. - I feel better equipped to lead with purpose and to inspire those around me."

Who Should Apply?

Elevate is designed for all leaders from those with leadership experience who are looking to grow their impact within their organizations, or those aspiring for potential leadership roles.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Strong motivation to grow personally and professionally
 - Endorsement from your organization
 - Approval from your direct leader or supervisor
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Program Investment: \$1,200

- In-Person Registration for The Leadership Conference: 2026 Des Moines
 - Registration for the October in-person Metro Women Connect workshop
 - Three dynamic learning sessions covering key leadership topics
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Submit Your Application!

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/8aTfyQVarSao4iox6>

Deadline to apply: Wednesday, September 16

Session Schedule

October 8 | 9 -11 am - Learning Session #1: Executive Presence with Tiffany O'Donnell at Collaborate Des Moines

In this session, you will hear from Women Lead Change CEO, and Mayor of Cedar Rapids, Tiffany O'Donnell, on Executive Presence. Executive Presence can be overlooked yet is often the difference-maker in who moves up and who stays stuck. Add to it the changing landscape of work, specifically keeping that presence in a virtual, 2-D environment, leaders must adapt. An Emmy-Award winning television journalist, CEO and Mayor of Iowa's 2nd largest city, Cedar Rapids, Tiffany O'Donnell shares her unique insight into the physical aspects of presence and the internal work that must be done to win the day!

In-Person Workshop: Rewiring Workplace Relationships with Vanessa McNeal

October 14, 7:30-9am | Iowa Events Center

[In this transformative talk](#), Vanessa McNeal reveals why conflict resolution training fails when people are dysregulated, and what actually works: creating the psychological safety that transforms relationships.

The Leadership Conference: 2026 Des Moines

October 14 | Iowa Events Center

Participants in this year's Elevate Des Moines Leadership Program will attend the Des Moines Conference. We'll hear from speakers like Coach Lisa Bluder, Shawn Johnson-East and Andrew East,...[and more!](#)

October 21 | 9 - 11 am - Learning Session #2: Energy Alignment with Kara Hinzle at Collaborate Des Moines

Sustainable leadership starts with understanding how you're naturally wired, and learning to work with it, not against it. Using your personal PDP ProScan profile and Kara's Energy Alignment framework, you will explore what energizes and drains you, how to align your time with what matters most, and how to delegate with greater intention. You'll leave with practical strategies to protect your energy, leverage your strengths, and build a version of success you'll actually have the energy to enjoy.

October 28 | 9 - 11 am - Learning Session #3: Financial Literacy with Malia Gudenkauf at Collaborate Des Moines

Ever find yourself thinking you'll wait until retirement, wait until you make more money, wait until the kids are grown, wait until (fill in the blank) - to finally live the life you've been dreaming of? I'm here to tell you, you don't have to wait. Instead, start using your money with intention so you can enjoy life now and build for the future. We'll uncover how your money story influences your decisions, explore ways to align your spending with your values, and share strategies for setting healthy boundaries and having open conversations about money.

Questions? Email us at info@wlcglobal.org.