LEADING EDGE

a project of the the CHAMBER LUFKIN | ANGELINA COUNTY

2027 APPLICATION | CLASS 7

Application Deadline: November 20, 2026 | 12 PM

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PROGRAM DETAILS

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MISSION

Leading Edge (LE) is a fellowship, empowering early to mid-career professionals for lifelong community engagement and leadership through service on nonprofit boards.

What differenciates this group from others is its demonstrated commitment to mentorship. Each LE member is paired with an accomplished senior executive who can help them navigate the road ahead with valuable insight and experience.

Through these key tenets of knowledge and connections, the LE thrives on a desire to enrich the Lufkin community while simultaneously propelling their own careers. The program also includes a board governance leadership training segment within each session, facilitated by the Angelina College Center for Nonprofit Leadership, and culminates at the celebratory graduation. Graduates will also obtain a certificate in Board Governance from Angelina College and the opportunity to be placed into a board bank.

THE PROGRAM

- Introduces leadership practices shared by successful community leaders.
- Identifies personal leadership strengths & development opportunities.
- Explores processes relevant to "how Lufkin works" (collaboration, advocacy, board governance).
- Provides multiple opportunities to make connections with community leaders.
- Provides a catalyst for non-profit board service via the Board Governance certification.

Sessions explore topics including:

- Basics of Bylaws
- Developing the Organizational Chart / Lines of Authority
- Executive/Board Relationship
- Board Meeting Agenda and Supporting Documents
- Board/ED Position Descriptions
- Robert's Rules of Order
- Board Policy Manual
- Standard Financial Reports
- Legal Requirements for 501(c)3 Organizations
- Tools for Sustainability
- Succession Policy

Participants accept a five-month position from February through June on the board of a local non-profit organization. During that time, the participants are invited to attend and actively participate in all board meetings and board events. In addition, participants join and participate on at least one board committee and work on a board project. Both participants and organization are asked to supply feedback and information to the Leading Edge staff regarding the board placement.

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BASIC REQUIREMENTS

Attendance is required for all sessions. Dates are tentative but should be finalized by the opening reception. After the year begins, dates will not change unless necessary and you will be given ample notice. Arriving on time at the designated locations for each session is required. Time will be docked for arriving late, leaving early, or leaving during a session.

Absences – To graduate, you are only allowed to miss one (1) hour total during the Leading Edge year from the regular sessions. Any tardiness or partial days will be included in this hour's total. You will be allowed to make up missed hours by attending a class correlating with the program at Angelina College and this will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Mandatory – No absences are allowed from the following LE activities, which are outside of the regular sessions:

- Participants are required to accept a five-month position from February through June on the board of a local nonprofit organization (selected by the Chamber). During that time, the participants are required to attend and actively participate in all board meetings and board events.
- Participants are required to meet with a Chamber appointed Executive Mentor at least once a month from February through June. Signed documentation must be provided by the mentor to confirm attendance for each month's mentor session.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

To be considered for Leading Edge, applicants must:

- Be 21 years of age or older
- Live and/or work full-time in Angelina County
- Receive formal approval from their CEO, owner, or senior executive
- Demonstrate commitment to leadership growth and community engagement
- Submit a complete application by the stated deadline
- Commit to full participation in all sessions and required activities

Leading Edge is limited to approximately 12 participants per class. Applications are reviewed by the Leading Edge Committee and approved by the Chamber Board of Directors.

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APPLICANT PROCESS

- Applications will be available on August 1 with a submission deadline of 12 p.m. on November 20, 2026.
- Applications will be available ay LufkinTexas.org/Leading-Edge or at the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce at 1615 S. Chestnut St.
- All applications must be turned in to the Chamber of Commerce by 12 p.m. on November 20, 2026. Applications will not be accepted after this time unless the deadline has been extended by the Chamber of Commerce.
- **Do not enclose the fee with the application. Fees will not be accepted until the class has been selected.**

SELECTION PROCESS

- Applicants who are Chamber Investors will have the first right to class selection. Non-Investor applicants will be selected from the balance of 12 qualified applicants.
    - Chamber Investors in the Chamber Chairman's Circle Membership Level will have the first right of refusal in the class.
- Applications are logged in as they arrive so there is a record of the time and date for each application.
- Only completed applications will be considered.
- The Leadership Programs Coordinator will review applications for completeness and qualification and make recommendations to the Chamber Board of Directors for approval of class selection.
- The Chamber Board will have the final determination and approval of the Leading Edge class. This includes the right to determine if an applicant qualifies or is not representative of the Leading Edge program.
- All applications will remain confidential and will be used only for the purpose of the Leading Edge program.

NOTIFICATION PROCESS

- Applicants will be notified in writing of their acceptance into the program by December 4, 2026.
- Applications that were not within the first 12 qualified applications will be notified in writing, as well.
- Applications that were not within 12 will be retained and prioritized for next year' program.

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2027 CALENDAR

Session	Details
Nonprofit Board & Responsibilities - Why Boards Matter	January 5, 2027 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Chamber Community Room
Founding Documents	February 2, 2027 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Chamber Community Room
Nonprofit Board, Organization, & Staff Roles & Relationships	March 2, 2027 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Chamber Community Room
Essentials of Policies & Procedures	April 6, 2027 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Chamber Community Room
Effective Meetings for Nonprofit Boards	May 4, 2027 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Chamber Community Room
Succession Planning & Tools for Sustainability	June 8, 2027 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM Chamber Community Room
Graduation Reception	June 15, 2027 6:00 PM Location TBD

2027 APPLICATION

(To be completed by the applicant. Please type or print in ink. Do not use pencil.)

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Name you prefer to be called: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

_____ _____ _____
City State Zip Code

Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Company: _____

Type of Organization / Company: _____

Job Title: _____ Date of Hire: _____

Business Mailing Address: _____

_____ _____ _____
City State Zip Code

Business Phone: _____ Years living/working in Angelina County: _____

Briefly describe your primary responsibilities:

_____

_____

_____

2027 APPLICATION

(To be completed by the applicant. Please type or print in ink. Do not use pencil.)

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Please list any dietary restrictions, food allergies, or medical conditions that the Director of Leadership Programs needs to be aware of:

_____

_____

_____

Marital Status: ☐ Single ☐ Married ☐ Partnered ☐ Prefer not to say

Spouse / Partner Name (if applicable): _____

Number of Children (optional): _____ Age(s): _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

Interest, hobbies, or passions outside of work:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Community causes you care most about:

_____

_____

_____

_____

2027 APPLICATION

(To be completed by the applicant. Please type or print in ink. Do not use pencil.)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

1. List any current community, civic, nonprofit, or professional involvement.

ORGANIZATION	ROLE / INVOLVEMENT	YEARS INVOLVED

2. On average, how many hours per month do you volunteer or serve in the community? _____

3. If you could choose to serve on any nonprofit board in Angelina County, which one would you choose? Please list your top 3 choices. *(Board placement is based on availability, placement in top 3 choices is not guaranteed.)*

_____

_____

_____

4. In what areas of the community would you like to become more involved?

_____

_____

5. Have you been through the Leadership Tomorrow program? _____Yes _____No
   If yes, when did you graduate? _____

6. Have you been through the Leadership Lufkin program? _____Yes _____No
   If yes, when did you graduate? _____

PARTICIPANT COMMITMENT

To be completed by the applicant.

Leading Edge is a professional and civic leadership commitment requiring active engagement, full attendance, and completion of all program requirements. By signing below, I acknowledge and agree to the following:

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

- I will attend all scheduled Leading Edge sessions and required activities.
- I understand that no more than one (1) total hours may be missed during regular monthly sessions.
    - I acknowledge that any tardiness or partial days will be included in this hour's total. You will be allowed to make up missed hours by attending a class correlating with the program at Angelina College and this will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- I will complete all course requirements and civic engagement assignments, including attendance at: Monthly sessions, Board Meetings, and Mentor meetings over the span of the five month program.
- I will fulfill all program requirements prior to graduation.

PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

- I will conduct myself in a professional, respectful, and ethical manner at all times.
- I understand that I represent my employer or organization, the Lufkin/Angelina County community, and the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce

FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

- I acknowledge that Leading Edge tuition is $500 and non-refundable once accepted, unless otherwise determined by the Chamber.
- I understand that failure to meet program requirements may result in dismissal without refund of tuition.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I understand that successful graduation from Leading Edge requires full compliance with all attendance, participation, conduct, volunteer service, and financial requirements.

By signing below, I affirm my commitment to complete the Leading Edge program in its entirety.

Participant Name (Printed): _____

Organization Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

EMPLOYER COMMITMENT

To be completed by the applicant's employer, sponsor, or authorized organizational representative.

Leading Edge is a professional and civic leadership commitment requiring active engagement, full attendance, and completion of all program requirements. By signing below, the undersigned organization affirms the following:

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

- The applicant is approved to participate in all required Leading Edge program components, including the welcome reception, six classroom sessions, nonprofit board meetings, executive mentor meetings, and graduation reception.
- The organization agrees to release the applicant from regular work responsibilities as needed for full participation and successful completion of the program.

TUITION RESPONSIBILITY

- The organization accepts responsibility for payment of the $500 non-refundable tuition upon the applicant's acceptance, unless a scholarship is awarded.
- *Tuition is not due at the time of application and will be invoiced after acceptance.*

COMMITMENT TO COMPLETION

- The organization understands that attendance, participation, and completion of all program requirements are mandatory for graduation.
- The organization supports the applicant's commitment to professional growth, civic leadership, and community engagement through Leading Edge.

By signing below, you confirm you are authorized to make this commitment on behalf of the organization.

Organization Name: _____

Authorized Representative (Printed Name): _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Billing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MEDIA RELEASE

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Please select one of the following:

☐ **FULL AUTHORIZATION**
I grant Leading Edge and the Lufkin/Angelina County Chamber of Commerce permission to use my name, photograph, likeness, and profile information for promotional, marketing, educational, and informational purposes. This includes use in print publications, digital communications, website content, social media, press releases, and other official materials. I understand that no compensation will be provided for such use.

☐ **PHOTO RESTRICTION**
I authorize the use of my name and profile information; however, I do not authorize the use of my photograph or likeness in promotional or publication materials.

☐ **PROFILE RESTRICTION**
I authorize the use of my photograph or likeness; however, I do not authorize the use of profile information submitted in this application.

☐ **NO AUTHORIZATION**
I do not authorize the use of my name, photograph, likeness, or profile information in promotional or publication materials.

I understand that this authorization applies only to Leadership Lufkin and official Chamber communications.

Participant Name (Printed): _____

Organization Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____