



NEWS RELEASE

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LEADERSHIP SOUTHSIDE ANNOUNCES CLASS OF 2025

[Danville, VA] – The Danville Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce has accepted 36 participants into this year's Leadership Southside class. To kick off the program year, the class attended their orientation this week, in addition to a social to network with Leadership Southside alumni.

Leadership Southside is the Dan River Region's premiere leadership development program for the business, education, public, and nonprofit sectors.

In its 33rd year, Leadership Southside was created when Leadership Danville and Leadership Pittsylvania County combined programs in 1991. Leadership Southside develops participants' leadership skills to strengthen their role as an individual, professional, and community member. This year's cohort will participate in sessions to learn about conflict resolution, nonprofit board leadership, communication skills, crisis leadership, equitable leadership, presentation skills, purpose-driven leadership and transformational leadership. Throughout the program, participants also will have access to several assessments, including CliftonStrengths™, the Enneagram, and a 360 review, to learn more about their own leadership style. In January, participants will travel to Richmond for Chamber Day at the Capitol to hear from and engage with members of the General Assembly.

"The Chamber provides the most comprehensive leadership program in the region," said Anne Moore-Sparks, the Chamber's President & CEO. "Meeting the need for leadership development in the region and fostering the growth of leaders who will play a crucial role in shaping the future of the region is paramount. This program creates a network of exceptional leaders capable of addressing the current and future leadership requirements of a region that is rapidly growing and changing."

Listed below are the names and organizations of the Leadership Southside Class of 2025:

Name of Participant	Place of Employment
Abby Manasco	Manasco Realty
Amadeo Cabrera	Hitachi Energy
Amber Stone	Sovah Health
Amy Newell	Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services
Andrea Gillus	Danville Public Schools
Anjanette Farmer	PATHS
Caleb Ayers	Institute for Advanced Learning and Research
Carrington Chambers	Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services
Chris Newnam	Hitachi Energy
Eben Leigh	United Way Danville-Pittsylvania County
Eric Minter	City of Danville, Fire Department
Henrietta Weaver	City of Danville
Jaime Bethel	Fab's Family Medical Transport
Jared Links	Kickback Jacks
Javier Perez Derat	Hitachi Energy
Jerry Hankins	First National Bank
Jessica Dalton	Danville Community College
Joel Keneipp	Polynt Composites
Justin Scarce	Institute for Advanced Learning and Research
Kimberly Whitehead	Signode
Laura Brown	2 Witches Winery & Brewery
Mallorie Gomersall	Tyson Farms
Maria Vasquez	ValleyStar Credit Union
Megan Bowling	URW Credit Union
Mitchell Smith	Virginia International Raceway
Richard White	Hobbs and Associates

Rodney Logan	Hitachi Energy
Samantha Bagbey	City of Danville, Economic Development and Tourism
Seth Hawker	City of Danville, Community Development
Shanel Beard	Epic Health Partners
Sherri Dickens	Institute for Advanced Learning and Research
Sheryl Royal	City of Danville
Stefanie Hamilton-Jackson	PLDR Law
Dr. Takiwi Milton-Babalola	Danville Public Schools
Tiffany Calloway	Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co
Tracy Fink	Institute for Advanced Learning and Research

The Chamber is grateful to the program's content sponsors for making these sessions possible:

- **Katie Beach Consulting;**
- **River District Consulting Group;** and
- **Epstein Clark Consulting.**

The Chamber has contracted with Rachel Covington to lead and facilitate the program. Rachel previously served as the Senior Director of Member Services for the Chamber, and led Leadership Southside as part of her role. For more information about Leadership Southside, please contact Rachel at rcovington@dpchamber.org.

The Chamber is grateful to its Innovation Partners and other regional funders, without whom this program would not be possible.

The Danville Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce accelerates business growth by connecting its 580 member organizations and over 22,000 member employees to dynamic resources and networks. The Chamber's number one goal is to help area businesses of all sizes to grow and prosper.

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