

**Gateway to Leadership Program
(Project Overview)
Greater Poplar Bluff Area Chamber of Commerce**

Gateway to Leadership (Poplar Bluff) is an innovative community program designed to identify and motivate emerging and/or relocated leaders and to develop their potential for community leadership roles by acquainting them with the opportunities, realities and challenges of the community. This project will greatly benefit small and emerging private business owners. Once a future leader completes this 12 month course, they should be better equipped to take on present and future leadership roles in Poplar Bluff. At the end of this program they will receive a certificate of achievement and be recognized in the Chamber newsletter, on the website and at our annual banquet. Time commitment will be minimal (2-3 hours per month), as we realize everyone's time is very valuable. Each participant will be required to attend 90% of the programs to be eligible for graduation.

By the end of the 12 month course, participants will benefit by:

- Having a better understanding of the community
- Becoming more familiar with community leaders
- Recognizing the interactions between private citizens and public organizations
- Seeing Poplar Bluff in terms of "the big picture"
- Having valuable networking contacts
- Knowing more people- from classmates to presenters to participants in activities
- Developing leadership skills and seeing themselves as a leader
- Bringing recognition to the participants and the Companies they represent
- Being prepared to serve their community!

Session topics and events include, but are not limited to: team building, leadership in general, history of Poplar Bluff and Butler County, local government, plant tours, volunteerism, mentoring, goal setting, state government, agriculture, law enforcement, networking, human resources, etc.

Sign up by contacting me at 785-7761 or shalter@poplarbluffchamber.org . Cost is \$375 for members and \$575 for non members (which includes one free ticket to Chamber Annual Banquet). Enrollees may incur other small costs throughout the program for special programs, meals, hotels, etc. however these events will be optional.

"Our goal is that upon graduation, each leader will be more informed about the Greater Poplar Bluff area and choose to serve the community in a way to make the most optimal impact." **Steve Halter, Greater Poplar Bluff Area Chamber of Commerce, President**

Testimonials:

* I really enjoyed getting to tour the different venues in Poplar Bluff and also Jefferson City. I thought the meetings we had were well thought out and I enjoyed them very much.

-William T. Britton (2010 GTL Graduate), Wal-Mart Shift Manager

* I have enjoyed the class, and think that it meets and exceeds your stated objectives. I enjoyed getting to know everyone. I wished that I could have attended that Jefferson City trip. The "field trips" were very informative and enjoyable. I can't think of anything else that would make it a better program.

-Brien Fugate (2010 GTL Graduate), Rural Metro, Market General Manager

* The most eye opening experiences for me were definitely the prison & Briggs tours! Being aware of events going on in the community, by being on the email distribution list, has been the most beneficial. I also enjoyed the guest speakers and learned about ways to get involved, that I didn't know existed-especially the mentor program. I've really appreciated the networking opportunities, as well. I really don't have any constructive criticism. This has been a wonderful experience and I am going to miss it!

-Amanda Reynolds (2010 GTL Graduate), Three Rivers College, Coordinator, Academic & Career Outreach Services

* I enjoyed the presentations and the community involvement with the different civic organizations and businesses. I have attended college and worked in Poplar Bluff for over 20 years , yet I know very little of the community. The factory tour was good for those of us who have not been in a factory as well as the tours of TRCC or the Hospital for those who may not be acquainted with those facilities .I looked forward to meeting monthly I plan to join a civic organization this year and am checking into sending my new nurse manager to this year's class.

-Lisa Markham (2009 GTL Graduate), Poplar Bluff Regional Medical Center, Director of Critical Care

* I want to thank you for the opportunity to take part in the program. I enjoyed the program. Every event I learned something. It allowed me many opportunities I would not have otherwise have gained. A few examples are the tours and the city/county government. The time that the businesses, hospital and police/county took to "tour us" was super. It was beneficial to see how Butler County and the City operate.

I particularly liked the presentation by Dr. Stephenson. His background in leadership training is great. I met a lot of great folks with this program and hope to continue to connect with them in the future. Again, thank you for the opportunity. It was definitely beneficial and I would recommend others to participate.

-Kristina McDaniel (2009 GTL Graduate), Three Rivers College, HR Manager