



For Immediate Release
Date

Charleston Leaders Launches Leader Academy for High School Sophomores
Initiative built to identify emerging leaders and help them discover leadership potential

Charleston, SC — Charleston Leaders is excited to announce the inaugural class of its Leader Academy, a program for high school sophomores to discover leadership potential within themselves. This program looks to foster leadership growth by exposing students to community needs, resources, and opportunities. Participants are taught leadership skills while learning about the various government, economic and social sectors of the community.

Leader Academy will begin August 2023 with a reception for students, parents, administrators and special guests. The program includes a Fall Semester and Spring Semester with three Leader Sessions during each semester. Sessions will be held at The Riley Center, College of Charleston on Lockwood Blvd. unless otherwise noted.

Teachers will nominate candidates across Charleston County School District to secure 15 students for the initiative. There will be one student exclusively chosen for the 2023-2024 school year per Charleston County High School. Candidates should possess these attributes: demonstrated leadership, academic achievement, expression of interest and full participation.

Leader Academy includes monthly interaction with community and business leaders in discussion sessions that examine issues facing our region. Transportation for offsite sessions will be provided by Charleston County Schools after breakfast at The Riley Center. All sessions and program costs are provided by Charleston Leaders, business community partners, and grant funding. Sponsorships are also available to support this initiative.

“I was fortunate early on in my career to learn and gain support from our incredible community of leaders,” shares Executive Director Ruthann Kelly-Hipps. “My goal is to give back what I received and strengthen our community with future leaders that can take us into the future.”

Parents can expect their children to get opportunities, exposure, internship and career awareness, professionalism, and personal brand building & ownership. Our community will have a new, dedicated group of young learners and leaders that will potentially enhance and strengthen our business culture.

Charleston Leaders believes in developing relationships that make the Charleston community stronger through great leadership. Leaders are found in every scenario and circumstance, and that includes student leaders. The goal is to set the leaders of tomorrow on the path to becoming important members of the Charleston community.

To find out more and to sponsor this initiative, please visit <https://charlestonleaders.org/leader-academy/>.

About Charleston Leaders: Charleston Leaders’ mission is to foster and develop leadership in our community. This is accomplished by: engaging and connecting business leaders through various programming; fostering growth in our business partnerships; and designing programming by partnering with our schools and community to develop future leaders.

Charleston Leaders is a 501c3 non-profit corporation. Contributions are tax deductible.

www.charlestonleaders.org

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For program information

<https://charlestonleaders.org/leader-academy/>