

The best leaders know that training their successors to be competent, knowledgeable and well-connected community leaders is crucial for the North Central Massachusetts community's economic vitality. The Community Leadership Institute was developed to support the access to the region's many organizations, industries and business leaders as part of the succession plan not only for individual businesses but for the community at large in this 21st century technology and knowledge-driven economy.

<p><b>CLI Participants will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh &amp; renew their leadership skills</li> <li>• Gain exposure to community resources that effect business and the economic vitality of the region</li> <li>• Strengthen leadership skills to support a better community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in a dialogue with peers who see similar goals and challenges for the area</li> <li>• Enhance professional network of peers through 9 month engagement</li> <li>• Participate in a community service project</li> </ul>	<p><b>Expected Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptive, reflective and collaborative community leaders</li> <li>• Business and community leaders with deeper, informed connections</li> </ul>
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**Successful Candidates:**

- Demonstrate motivation and potential to lead within business or community
- Considered high performers in the organization and on a leadership track
- Seek to understand external issues facing the North Central region today
- Committed to the success of his or her sector and community; able to see beyond their own position to understand the influence she/he has on success of company and community
- Curious and interested in developing new relationships and open to challenging own point of view

**Eligibility and Selection Process:**

**Eligibility:** Each year, CLI accepts up to 25 participants from various industries and responsibilities within the Chamber member organization. We recommend that an organization sends no more than two participants.

**Selection Process:**

- **Nominations:** The Executive Sponsor (the owner or CEO of a member organization) should internally nominate one or two professionals to apply for the CLI program.
- **Applications:** Applications are available online at [www.northcentralmass.com/CLI](http://www.northcentralmass.com/CLI) and include 4 short essay questions. Applications are due by August 30, 2024
- **Selection:** Applications will be reviewed by the CLI Steering Committee and notified no later than September 27, 2024

**Tuition:**

Tuition for the 9 month CLI program is \$1,950 and includes all program materials and lunches. CLI participants will also receive season tickets to the chamber's executive breakfast series for additional educational opportunities.

Two half-tuition scholarships are available and applicants seeking these must provide a letter of request to be considered for one of the scholarships.

**Commitment:**

The CLI program runs from October to June with eight, day-long sessions on various topic areas. Participants who enroll in CLI are expected to fully engage in all sessions. Companies that send a candidate should guarantee their support for the candidate's full engagement with their peers.

## 2024-2025 Program Calendar

### Personal Leadership Development and Program Orientation

*October 10, 2024*

Participants will be introduced to the CLI program through discussion on personal leadership and corporate citizenship with Dr. Michael Greenwood of Fitchburg State University. Executive Sponsors and supervisors will be invited to our Executive Luncheon sponsored by Rollstone Bank & Trust.

### Non-Profit Governance and Volunteerism

*November 7, 2024*

Participants will review volunteerism, citizen engagement and responsibilities of board of directors before learning from non-profit agencies in North Central.

### Media & Crisis Communications

*January 9, 2025*

We'll delve into how media impacts the view of issues, learn about the importance of local access television, and enhance communication skills with a role play activity.

### Healthcare, Law & Justice

*February 6, 2025*

This session will focus on the health of the North Central community through the lens of the community hospitals and trends in the healthcare industry. The afternoon will focus on mental health through the law and justice system and conclude with a tour of the Worcester County House of Corrections.

### Arts & Culture

*March 6, 2025*

North Central MA is ripe with arts and cultural diversity. Participants will discuss the community from an arts perspective, particularly community art, it's importance in the local history, as well as initiatives to move North Central forward.

### Legislation

*April 3, 2025*

Current CLI participants and Alumni will be transported to Boston where attendees will enjoy a tour of the State House, lunch with local delegation, and speaking program by cabinet members. Past speakers have included State Budget Director, Secretary of Transportation, and Secretary of Health & Human Services.

### Manufacturing & Economic Development

*May 1, 2025*

Economic Development is the core of a successful community. Participants will learn more about various economic activities in the community, and partnerships between cities & towns, as well as learning more about manufacturing in our region.

### Debrief & Commencement

*June 12, 2025*

Participants will spend the morning debriefing their program and focusing on the way forward with Dr. Michael Greenwood. Commencement will occur during the Chamber's Annual Business Meeting. We encourage participants to invite their Executive Sponsor and supervisor in celebration of their achievements.

## CLI Community Project

Each year, CLI participants come together to complete a community project through the course of the nine month program. Participants select a project, or break into smaller groups of similar interest, with a goal to positively affect the community while also managing and executing the project before the end of the program year. Time will be given at each session for this work, though some outside class time may be involved.

## Additional Opportunities

CLI participants will receive a season ticket to seven chamber breakfasts featuring a variety of speakers and topic areas to better engage in the community as well as support their learning.

Contact Maureen Babcock with questions about the Community Leadership Program  
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