



## Signature FAQ

### What is the Leadership Medina County Signature Class?

In 1990, Ben Hallock '92 had a vision to start a community leadership program. Community leaders rallied around the idea and developed the Signature Class based on other successful leadership programs across the country. Leadership Medina County's Signature Class brings together cross-industry, established leaders who reflect the diversity of Medina County. It provides an opportunity to cultivate new relationships, explore complex county and regional issues and deepen leadership skills. At the end of the class, alumni are poised to have increased impact through their civic engagement.

### What will I gain from participating?

Participation in the Signature Class offers a unique opportunity to be part of a nine-month experience during which you will learn a great deal about yourself and about the many different communities that are part of Medina County. In addition, you will make lifetime friendships with individuals representing the diversity of the county.

At the end of the program year, many graduates say that their Leadership Medina County experience has been life-changing – professionally and personally. Alumni have:

- A broader and more profound understanding of complex community issues
- A deeper appreciation of how these community issues relate to one another in a greater system
- A heightened recognition of the potential of civic leaders to influence community issues
- An increased understanding of ways to be effective contributors within the community
- A deep understanding of the value of collaborating with diverse partners to accomplish complex goals
- A greatly expanded network of colleagues to serve as resources in their endeavors.
- A greater commitment to being involved in their communities in even more meaningful ways.

### Who Should Apply?

Signature participants are established community and business leaders who are looking to broaden their impact in Medina County. Ideal candidates for the Signature Class:

- Have a proven record of service and commitment in their professions, community groups and neighborhoods
- Must be a resident of or work chiefly in Medina County

### What if I applied previously and was not selected?

Those who have previously applied to the Signature Class are strongly encouraged to reapply. Many Signature Class alumni were selected to participate after more than one application. Experienced civic and community leaders recognize that a long-term perspective and perseverance are fundamental to success. Because this curriculum can only be successful when the class composition reflects the diversity of Medina County, the Selection Committee selects individuals for each class to reflect Medina County's geographic and professional diversity. Therefore, the Selection Committee reviews the class composition as a whole when selecting candidates.

### How can I best convey my experience and interests on the application?

The Signature Class application is designed to lead you through a process to reflect on your civic, community and business leadership experiences and future goals. Make sure to follow instructions and submit your application materials in advance of the deadline. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

### The selection committee will be looking for the following in your application:

- A demonstrated personal commitment to community service and to solving community problems. Leadership may be demonstrated through a variety of initiatives including traditional and non-traditional activities.

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- Demonstrate a strong interest in and the potential for creating positive change and being a strong leader for the common good of the entire community.
- High standards of personal quality and integrity.

### **Who reviews the applications?**

A diverse Selection Committee of alumni ensures that participants in the Signature Class represent the diversity of the greater Medina County community.

### **What is the time commitment?**

- Two-day, overnight opening retreat in September
- Nine full-day sessions once a month (September – May)
- Closing retreat and graduation in May
- Participation in a class project

### **I am not sure I can attend all of the class days -- can I still participate?**

Attendance at the opening retreat is mandatory. Individuals who arrive late or who are absent from the opening retreat will be dropped from the class. There is an allowance for a limited number of excused absence hours for the remaining class days.

### **What is the tuition cost?**

Leadership Medina County is funded by tuition and contributions. Tuition is \$2,200.00, which covers all program costs, including meals, facilities, materials and lodging for the overnight retreat. If selected to participate in Leadership Medina County, you (or your sponsoring organization) agree to pay the tuition fee of \$2,200.00, which is non-refundable. Tuition is due by July 5, 2019. At least 10% of tuition must be paid by the class member.

### **Is tuition assistance available?**

Yes, tuition assistance is available. Limited resources preclude us from awarding full tuition assistance. However, partial tuition assistance based on financial need is available. Awarded tuition assistance falls in the range of twenty to sixty percent of total tuition. Tuition assistance requests must be submitted by April 30, 2019.

### **When will I find out if I have been awarded tuition assistance?**

When you are notified that you have been selected to participate in the Signature Class, you also will be notified about the state of your tuition assistance request.

### **When will I find out if I have been selected?**

Notification will be emailed to all Signature applicants no later than June 2019.

### **When is the application deadline?**

The application deadline is April 30, 2019.

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