





2024-2025 Annual Report

OUR TEAM

Carrie Richardson, *Executive Director* Learner. Achiever. Input. Relator. Discipline.

Alejandra McClanahan, *Operations Director* Learner. Responsibility. Individualization. Achiever. Input.

Emily Brown, *Director of Access & Custom Programs* Intellection. Input. Developer. Empathy. Harmony.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diana Tyndall, *President* Chris Hoeman, *Past President* Brad Coy, *Vice President* Jana Greig, *Secretary* Gretchen Russell, *Treasurer*

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LIFETIME LEGACY LEADERS Larry Stock

VISIONARY LEADERS David Hall* Don Harkey*/ People Centric Consulting Group Brooke Johnston* Tim Baltes Dustin Bobbitt Bethany Burrows Dr. Spencer Harris Sgt. Scott Hill

Dr. Kevin Kropf Dr. Judith Martínez-Garcia Megan Neyer Stephanie O'Connor

Dr. Nicole Holt

Hayley Cobb, Communications Director

Responsibility. Input. Restorative. Connectedness. Developer.

Cindy Mergen, Director of Core Programs & Engagement

Learner. Intellection. Input. Connectedness. Competition.

Tim Potthoff Jh Maggie Rollwagen Tim Rosenbury Sarah Sissel-Badillo Tami Smith

Jhasmine Watson Jen adillo

INNOVATOR LEADERS PA

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Tim BaltesKeran LemonsDustin BobbittSarah Sissel-BadilloJana GreigJhasmine WatsonCaitlin KisseeBen WattsEric Lampe

*pledge to Lifetime Legacy over 4 years

PROGRAM YEAR SPONSORS

417 Magazine Abacus! Amprod Arvest Bank Bass Pro Shops Biz 417 **BluCurrent Credit Union** Brad Bradshaw Law Brooke Johnston **Burrell Behavioral Health** Care to Learn Carnahan Evans **Cashmere Nail** Central Bank **City Utilities City Utilities SWAG Commerce Bank** Community Blood Center of the Ozarks

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Keep Supply **KPM CPAs & Advisors** MaMa Jean's Natural Market Maxon Fine Jewelry Med-Pay, Inc. Mercy Hospital Springfield Mid-Missouri Bank Missouri State University Mostly Serious MU Extension Greene County Nabholz **Ozarks Technical** Community College OWN, Inc. People Centric Consulting Group Positronic Pratt-Martinez International Consulting Firm SGC Foodservice

Show Me Chuy SMC Packaging Group Springfield Business Journal SpringNet SRC Holdings Corporation The Glo Center The Summit Preparatory School The Whitlock Co. TLC Properties Visit Springfield, MO Volt Credit Union

Inspire. Develop. Connect. Serve.

OUR MISSION

Leadership Springfield seeks to inspire, develop, and connect leaders to serve the Springfield community.

VISION .

- Create an enduring legacy via its dynamic network of graduates whose increased awareness and commitment to community service will serve as a catalyst to positively shape our community's future.
- Continue to develop and grow to equip its members to engage in effective and influential leadership within our community.
- Develop the next generation of leaders for the Springfield metropolitan area.
- Develop graduates who are more committed citizens of Springfield and better-rounded employees, managers, and leaders in the workplace, and better able to serve the community in an informed manner through awareness, understanding, and action.

BELIEFS

- We believe that significant positive change can be accomplished by a network of diverse leaders working together toward common goals.
- We believe that Springfield's current and future health depends on strong, effective leadership at many levels.
- We believe the next generation of Springfield leaders should be developed and encouraged.
- We believe Leadership Springfield should be an independent, non-partisan, non-aligned entity that always serves Springfield's best interest.
- We believe Leadership Springfield should conduct horizon scanning to constantly look to the future and position itself to serve Springfield best.
- We believe Leadership Springfield has an obligation to explore and expose its alumni to a variety of social, economic, and political issues and leaders.

OUR COMMITMENT TO BELONGING, INCLUSION, AND ACCESS

Leadership Springfield values, engages, and includes the rich range of perspectives and lived experiences in our community. We are intentional about creating environments where every person feels a sense of belonging and has the opportunity to thrive and lead..

Leadership Springfield believes...

- Everyone is a leader. We recognize the influence we have on one another. Our mission is to inspire, develop, and connect leaders to work together for meaningful community impact.
- Belonging makes us stronger. We value respectful dialogue that embraces differing viewpoints and fosters a culture of mutual understanding. No single person or group holds all the answers, but by working together, we can shape Springfield into a community where everyone feels they belong.
- The community needs you to lead. Your voice, perspective, and lived experience matter. Strong communities are built when individuals from all backgrounds are welcomed, valued, and engaged in shaping our shared future.
- Leadership is influence. We are committed to equipping leaders who influence others for the greater good. Leadership can be constructive or destructive, effective or ineffective. We believe effective, inclusive leadership has the power to transform communities for the better.
- We reject discrimination and exclusion. We actively welcome input from individuals across all backgrounds and experiences. We acknowledge there is still progress to be made in our community to ensure true inclusion, belonging, and access for all. As a leadership organization, we are committed to standing against racism and all forms of exclusion—and working alongside community partners to promote equity and belonging across Springfield.

"This is the premier professional development opportunity in the city of Springfield. I honestly cannot think of how to improve or change it. If it's not broken, don't fix it." -Signature Class Graduate

SIGNATURE CLASS 47

Sarah Abele Jessica Atchison Brandi Bailey Dr. Tara Benson Mandy Buettgen-Quinn Brianna Cudworth Jamie Dame

SIGNATURE CLASS 48

Haley Armstrong Jinzi Fan Darren Beck Jeff Bertholdi Kristy Carter Ashley Carter **Riana Clark** Erin Cummings

Josh Harrel Dr. Kayette Glass Chris Glenn Amanda Gooch Crystal Higdon Dr. Brandan Gremminger Paladin Huckaba Fatima Grover Racheal Hunt Martin Gugel Ryan Hurn

Atlas Dennis

Austin Elliott

Ashley Fleming

Kevin Grinder

Doug Hansen

Kari Harles

Alan Fay

Dr. David Haustein Veronica McKinney Michael Nelson Bryan Newberry Jessica Passeri Parker Reid Jessica Robinson Jennifer Severson

Tylinia Smith Blake Sobieralski Zion Spurgeon Dr. Amy Stark Donna Thomas Chris Tuckness Christopher Upton Kristen Weaver Teri Wingo

Mark Hecquet **Bethany Henry**

Ross Hawkins

Skyler Henson

Layne Hunton

Kenny Kabak

Karissa Kary

Lacy Martin

Dr. Katie Kensinger Justin Kensinger Erin Lawrence Tessa LeRoy Dr. Aaron Light Sarah Long

Melisabeth Johnston KC Mareth Christy McCue Whitney Mosley Dr. Erin Plisco Katherine Proctor Michael Ramsey Dr. Kayla Robinson

Stephanie Robinson **Christopher Roush** Ashley Sigrest Kelsea Suarez Jason Whitesell

"I absolutely loved my time in the Leadership Springfield Signature Class experience. The information, experiences, and skills I have gained are going to be essential to making me a better leader in my community and organization moving forward." -Signature Class Graduate

ACADEMY CLASS 35

Kwaku Asare-Bawuah Sophia Assmann Will Beadle Will Beall Elif Benzer Annabell Cleeton AJ Coale

ACCESS CLASS 19

Fontana Young Jennifer Sickinger Kaitlyn Kincaid Dan Bumblauskas Brittany Butterworth Kelly Guenther Michelle Tackett Jessica Austin Gina Harris Chris Abercrombie Beth Keeling Mikala Thurston Jared Reeves Katy Pattison

Callie Dills Keilei Downer Angelo Garcia Cadence Gelner Aven Goodnight Hannah Green Miles Holcomb

Cristian Rath

Emily Brown

Lawrence Anderson

Carrisa Hoelscher

Ed Walton

Bobi Spilker

BJ Roberts

Brandon Wall

Dallas Woods

Tina Shannon

Kaleigh Gross

Amy Pentecost

Hayden Hradek Cayden Irons Marissa Kern Trisan Khoshyomn Gabriel McClanahan Hadlet McNatt Shriya Miller

ACCESS CLASS 20

Amanda Adams Ann Schroeppel Ashley Lawless Carlee Brown Catherine Luikart **Collins Chetwin** Chris Berger Dane Benton Danielle Eskra Emilia Stauffer Erika Warner Erin Kingham Ismet Anitsal Jennifer Eiffert Jimmy Jaime Jordan Blomquist Jordan Johnson Jordana Vera Katie Abbey Katy St.Clair Kaylin Homan Kevin Douglas Kristy Roach **Kyle Reeves Rachel Rawlins** Rafael Vite Sabrena Shipley Sara Brodersen Sarah White Teresa Amezcua Yeni Vasquez

Alex Morrow Maya Morse Andrew Patrias Eliana Phelps Hannah Richards Kai Schaefer Emma Scully

Sydney Smith Kate Southern Kenzie St. Clair

ACCESS CLASS 21

Matt Brown Rance Burger Laura Carroll Duckworth Ana Ortiz **Courtney Carter** John Chiles Stephanie Daniels Carolyn Esparza Kam Evans Zilian Falig Heather Kramer Camryn Lee

Lynne Meyerkord Carlie Minter Lauren Pottberg **Dennis Reynolds** Travis Rubelee Ron Schneider Shawn Shupert Sadaf Sohrab **Taylor Warwick** Mitch Wilkins

"It gave me a more positive outlook on life in Springfield and made me prouder to be here. From listening to how to be a better neighbor to learning about updates being made, I left feeling excited to be a Springfield resident." -Access Class Graduate

2024-2025 ALUMNI MEMBERS

Sam Ackerman Logan Aguirre Jeff Allen Jim Anderson Stephanie Anderson Mandy Anthes Stacey Armstrong Smith Brian Asberry David Atkisson Matthew Bailey Kami Bailev Ann Marie Baker Lisa Bakerink Joselyn Baldner Brent Baldwin James Ballard Tim Baltes Dr. Subhasree Basu Roy Andrea Battaglia Lindsay Bauer Holly Beadle Josh Beaird **Bridget Bechtel** Benjamin Beranek Randy Berger Justin Bess Nickie Bland Dustin Bobbitt Meredith Bosso Andrea Brady Karen Braun Jacque Breedlove-Harness Josh Brock Mike Brothers Julie Brown Megan Buchbinder Wes Buchholz Brandy Buckler Stacv Burks Karen Burnell Ruff Grea Burris **Bethany Burrows** David Burton Jason Buschert Justin Butler Carie Calvery Megan Cannon Teri Cantwell Karen Carcamo Leslie Carrier Tonia Castaneda Derek Chaney Jennifer Charleston Teresa Chasteen-Calhoun Sara Choate Rhonda Christopher Ashlev Clair Tiffani Claussen Gretchen Cliburn Hayley Cobb Jeff Coiner Elizabeth Cole Stacey Connell

Clayton Cooper Bekah Cooper Michael Cosby Rvan Cosbv **Kimberly Costello** Anita Cotter Chuck Cowan Sonva Cox Melissa Cox Brad Coy Melissa Coy Christopher Craig Christina Craig Anne Crites Brandon Dake Jennifer Dalton Erin Danastasio Janet Dankert Chris Davis John Davis Dennis Davis Rvan DeBoef Marisa DeClue **Daniel Derges Bridget Dierks** Wayne Dipper Tammy Dixon Chelsey Dollarhide Tyler Drenon Aileen Dressler Jami Dressler Joe Driscoll Katiina Dull Brent Dunn Jessie East Andy Ebbrecht Steve Edwards Jason England Brad Erwin Nancy Evans John Everest Greg Fansler Laura Farmer Austin Fax Mar'Ellen Felin Wendy Ferguson Sara Fields David Fields Kelli Fleck Brian Fogle Leslie Forrester **Doug Fredrick** Neil Frost Jeff Frye Stacey Frye Rob Fulp **Courtney Furgerson** Gretchen Gambon Mark Gambon Melody Gammon Angela Gannon Joe Gaunt Michelle Gavel

John Gentry

Gary Gibson Julie Gipson Abby Glenn Clav Goddard Caitlin Golike Ashleiah Goris Laurie Goslee Daphne Greenlee Julie Greer Jana Greig Brendan Griesemer Dori Grinder Neil Guion Ben Hackenwerth Jason Hainline David Hall Teresa Hanev Sally Hargis Don Harkey Jerry Harmison Andrea Harp Spencer Harris Peter Harris Amv Hathcock Courtney Hayes Schawo Erin Hedlun Daniel Hedrick Brad Heeren Chelsea Heilman Mackenzie Hernandez Pamela Hernandez Beth Hersh Emily Hertzog Megan Herzog Philip Herzog Jordan Hicks Nikky Hill Sat. Scott Hill Michael Hoeman Christopher Hoeman Shari Hoffman Crista Hogan Calie Holden Dr. Nicole Holt Diane Homan John Horton Monica Horton Tara Horton Cheyann Horton Christy Howell Jessie Hughev Stephanie Ireland Tammy Jahnke Staci Jensen Jen Johnson **Brooke Johnston** Julie Jones Ben Jones Sarah Justice Amanda Kastler Colby Keeth Jeff Kennedy Sarah Kerner Carl Kicklighter

Gerri Kielhofner Winter Kinne Erik Kiser Caitlin Kissee Weston Kissee Marybeth Kleinsasser Kristine Kliewer Mike Kromrev Mary Kromrey Dr. Kevin Kropf Layne LaBarge Dany Lacio Penny Lacy Eric Lampe Natosha Lancaster Lisa Langley Eric Latimer Gerry Lee Alia Lee Pam Leggett-Lowry Matt Lemmon Dr. Nichole Lemmon Keran Lemons Brvan Lenox Candy Letterman Jim Lewis Travis Liles Mary Ling Sara Lingenfelter Cortney Little-Ash Amanda Livingston Becca Locke Camille Lockhart Nick Lofaro Paul Logsdon M.A. Alisa Lowry James Ludden Jackie Maes Dan Malachowski George Mandrik Crystal Mapp Blanca Martinez Anne Sallee Mason Summer Massey **Stephanie Matthews** Dana Maugans Ben McBride Alejandra McClanahan Jennifer McClean Ken McClure Charlotte McCov Kathy McCrary Andrea McKinney John McNabb Mark McNay Johnny McNeil Morey Mechlin Nick Meinhardt Susan Mellentine Mike Mergen Cindy Mergen Lydia Merritt Michael Miller Carrie Miller

Tyler Moles Bill Monday Hannah Montgomery Patti Moore Jami Moore Matt Morris Whitney Morrow Andrea Mostvn Esther Munch Mindy Munoz Jarrod Murdaugh Natalie Murdock Melanie Myears Colleen Neill Nick Nelson Sarah Nenninger Michael Nesbitt Megan Neyer Mike Nichols **Tiffany Nichols** Stephanie O'Connor Daniel Ogunyemi Carolyn O'Kelley David Olive **Richard Ollis** Brooke O'Reilly Brandi O'Reilly Tery O'Shell Kristy Paddock Joe Page **Danielle Palmer** Rachael Palmer Juli Pascoe Joseph Passanise Andy Peebles Eva Pelkey Tad Peters Tina Pham-Morgan David Pomerenke Tim Potthoff Mark Powell Joev Powell **Michael Powers** Dr. Thomas Prater Francine Pratt Jay Preston Kathy Price Maranda Provance **Kimberley Pulley** Collin Quigley Tom Rankin Nathan Rapp Emily Reed Buckmaster Kim Reser Cara Restelli Erwin Kellie Revoir Joe Reynolds Zach Revnolds Crystal Reynolds Roberts Stephen Rice Stephanie Rice Carrie Richardson Nancy Riggs Meredith Roberts

2024-2025 ALUMNI MEMBERS

Jov Robertson Fountain Maggie Rollwagen Lori Rook Scott Rose Michelle Rose Loyce Rushen Krystal Russell Gretchen Russell Gary Schafer Aaron Schekorra Stacy Schneider **Gregg Scholtens** Millie Schuchmann Mike Scott Aaron Scott Keith Seiwert Jill Sellers Matt Sellmeyer Justin Setser Stephanie Shadwick Sheri Shaffer Karen Shannon

Shannon Sherrow **Emily Shook** Jeff Shore Krista Shurtz Ashley Silva Luke Simon Jarrett Sims Jessica Sims Sarah Sissel Ryan Sivill **Tiara Slack** Thomas Slaight Kathy Smith Skylar Smith Tami Smith John Snider Robert Sorbo Rhonda Sorensen Meleah Spencer Steve Squibb Stephanie Stenger Montgomery

Brian Fogle

Travis Shaw

Katy Stewart Melanie Stinnett Larry Stock Ryan Stockard David Stotelmyer Matthew Stublefield Matthew Suarez Christopher Swan Carly Taft Andrew Tasset Dr. Emily Thomas Dr. Rosalyn Thomas Jacob K. Thomas Joel Thomas Sarah Thomas Irick Thurman Travis Tindall Barri Tinkler Shelly Titus Jaimie Trussell Allyson Tuckness Kelly Turner

Amber Vanderwal **Tony Vienhage** Randy Villines **Cindy Waites** Meagan Walkenhorst Mark Walker Greg Walker Barbra Wallace Sara Walraven Rachael Walsh Stephanie Wan John E. Wanamaker Anita Warner Dr. Regina Waters Jhasmine Watson Sarah Watson **Benjamin Watts** Dr. Marissa Weaver

Kara Turner

Diana Tyndall

Brian Tyndall

Amy Unser

Brian Weiler Andrew Wells Katherine Wendt Jeff Werner Michael West Kristen Westerman Ben Whitlock Jill Wiggins Blake Will Samantha Williams Nancy Williams Jennifer Wilson Barbara Withers Jeff Woods Daniel Wooten **Rusty Worley** Freddie Young Gerald Zamora Kendra Zickmund Jeffrey Zimmerman Heather Zoromski

2024-2025 DONORS

American National Jim Anderson Mandy Anthes Stacey Armstrong Smith Subhasree Basu Roy Lindsay Bauer Holly Beadle **Bridget Bechtel** Kunti Bentley Randy Berger **Dustin Bobbitt** Emily Brown Mandy Buettgen-Quinn **Bethany Burrows** Cafe Cusco Leigh Anne Campbell Cellar + Plate Marlene Chism City Utilities Ashley Clair Hayley Cobb Tamara Conn Melissa Cox Brad Cov Christina Craig Anne Crites Brandon Dake Shelly Davis Dennis Davis LaRissa Deck-Newman Tammy Dixon Tyler Drenon Brad Erwin Nancy Evans Mar'Ellen Felin David Fields Fire & Ice Restaurant Flat Branch Home Loans

Jeff Frve Mark Gambon Gretchen Gambon John & Susan Gentry Gilardi's Jami Glenn Caitlin Golike Laurie Goslee Jana Greig Dori Grinder David Hall Don Harkey Spencer Harris Courtney Hayes Schawo Chelsea Heilman Emily Hertzog Philip Herzog Megan Herzog Nikky Hill Christopher Hoeman Michael Hoeman Joe Holcomb Nikki Holden Calie Holden Eden Holt Paladin Huckaba Tammy Jahnke Staci Jensen Isabelle Jimenez Walker Katie Johnson **Brooke Johnston** John Kaderly Jeff Kennedy Caitlin Kissee Mike Kromrey Kevin Kropf Tara Lacio

Eric Lampe Natosha Lancaster Lisa Langley Eric Latimer Gerry Lee Keran Lemons Candy Letterman Licata Law Firm, P.C Sara Lingenfelter Nick Lofaro London Calling Alisa Lowry James Ludden Crystal Mapp Ben McBride Laura McBride Alejandra McClanahan Jennifer McClean Charlotte McCoy Kristin McDaniel Lisa McGhee Mark McNay Nick Meinhardt Mike Mergen Lydia Merritt Michael Miller Modern Day Marketing Jami Moore Shalizeh Naraghi Michael Nesbitt Megan Neyer **Tiffany Nichols** Stephanie O'Connor Daniel Ogunyemi **Richard Ollis** Brandi O'Reilly Tiffany Orthman Tery O'Shell

Crystal Owens Joe Page Joseph Passanise Jessica Passeri Andy Peebles Phillips Plumbing Pitt Technology Group David Pomerenke Tim Potthoff **Thomas Prater** Francine Pratt Maranda Provance **Kimberley Pulley** Carrie Richardson Meredith Roberts Joy Robertson Fountain Ashley Rowan Gretchen Russell Weirong Schaefer Gary Schafer Shelah Schenkel Mike Scott Jeff Shore Daphne Simpson Jarrett Sims Sarah Sissel-Badillo Thomas Slaight Robert Sorbo Lauren Southern Meleah Spencer Victoria Sprenger Steve Squibb Micheala Steinmetz-Benton Stephanie Stenger Montgomery Larry Stock Supper LLC **Rosalyn Thomas Emily Thomas**

Jaimie Trussell Brian Tyndall Randy Villines Stephanie Wan John E. Wanamaker Neal Wass Sara Waters Regina Waters Jhasmine Watson Benjamin Watts Andrew Wells Katherine Wendt Laura Winstead Emily Wood Jeff Woods

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LEADSGF! -----

LEADERSHIP, IMPACT & CONNECTION BY THE NUMBERS

3,600+

ALUMNI SINCE PROGRAMS BEGAN IN 1986

100

SUBMITTED SIGNATURE CLASS APPLICATIONS

390%

INCREASE IN INSTAGRAM REACH

99.7%

ACCURACY IN REVENUE FORECASTING FOR THE GREAT GAME OF BUSINESS

I,500+

PROGRAM YEAR LEADERS DEVELOPED

\$45,000+

AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS



Contributions & Grants 20% Sponsorships 15%

MOMENTUM & MILESTONES

- Our two-day Access Class continues to feed Signature Class interest. We now have more than **60 dual alumni of the Signature and Access Class.**
- Development is now a driving force. Just three years ago, development made up 0% of our budget. Today, it accounts for 20%—a powerful shift that reflects alumni engagement and long-term sustainability.
- Three student workers supported the LeadSGF team throughout the year. We are grateful for opportunities to connect with students and provide valuable professional experiences!
- Over the past seven years, we've tripled our sponsorships—averaging 17% annual growth. This momentum is a testament to the community's investment in our mission.

- We ended last program year in the **healthiest financial position in decades**, thanks to strong stewardship through The Great Game of Business and development efforts that doubled giving since 2022.
- Graduate-level credit is now available for Signature Class graduates from both Drury University and Missouri State University, a long-time effort signifying the caliber of programming offered by our flagship program.
- Rosie hosted its **third annual sold-out 100 Wise Women event**, a Jefferson-style dinner that encourages authentic, empowering connections and conversation.
- Our community impact continues to grow. **Participation in our non-Signature programs grew by 11% this year**, reflecting increasing demand for dynamic leadership development across the region.
- This program year brought **new collaborations and custom community leadership programming**, including industryspecific projects and an exciting partnership with efactory and SBDC, featuring Larry Stock's 100X Leader workshop series.

INCOME BREAKDOWN

MEET OUR LIFETIME & VISIONARY LEGACY LEADERS

Larry Stock

Lifetime Legacy Leader Signature Class I, Access Class 2 Leadership Springfield Board of Directors, Past President

Larry Stock is a graduate of Leadership Springfield Signature Class 1, and a recent member and past president of our Board of Directors. Larry was on the development committee that initiated and formalized our Legacy Leaders League program, and an early contributor to the group as well.

After spending 43 years working on and in the Queen City Roofing & Sheet Metal company, (QCR), Larry is in the process of selling his company to his company president and GM. While Larry still serves as CEO of QCR he started a new company three years ago, Peak Influence, which focuses on Executive and leadership coaching and mentoring, as well as team productivity improvement.

Like many other Leadership Springfield graduates, Larry has not always been active in the organization. In fact, Larry would like to thank fellow Leadership Springfield alumni Luke Westerman, Don Harkey, and Mike Brothers for their invitation and encouragement to reengage in his participation by agreeing to serve on the Board of Directors seven years ago. Larry has served on the Boards of Directors of several contractor associations, including the Springfield Contractors Association and the multi-state Midwest Roofing Contractor Association. In 2023, Larry was presented with the area's Salute to Construction Industries Lifetime Achievement Award.

Following a long-time interest in ongoing learning, and personal and professional development, Larry has been certified by the international John Maxwell team, as a trainer and coach as well as GiANT worldwide and Coach for Life organization in serving as a life coach, mentor, and guide and now really enjoys uses those skills to help develop others.

As to his reasoning for joining and becoming a member of the Leadership Springfield Legacy Leaders program, Larry said: "I am a huge fan and supporter of the mission and the work of Leadership Springfield and its impact on our community and those who work in and with us. I would like to thank everyone involved, including: fellow Legacy Leaders, class participants, the entire staff, Board members, committee chairs and members, and program sponsors and supporters as well alumni members as well. The time given by all who volunteer in any capacity is most appreciated, as well as the dollar contributions of sponsors, alumni, and all who support us. I do hope that the Legacy Leaders program continues to grow and become a significant source of revenue for the organization. There are way more requests for programs for Leadership Springfield to organize or assist within our community, and I hope the base of revenue can grow to help us extend our reach of support and offerings going forward."

Thank you, Larry, for your continued support of Leadership Springfield!

MEET OUR LIFETIME & VISIONARY LEGACY LEADERS

Brooke Johnston

Visionary Leader Signature Class 45 Access Class 13

Brooke Johnston is not a Springfield native, but many would not guess that, given her enthusiastic support, involvement, and passion for the Springfield community. Brooke moved to Springfield from Florida in August 2022 and says the decision was easy. With family nearby in Ozark, she had visited the area many times and fell in love with Springfield and all it has to offer.

"I have a passion for learning and personal development," Brooke says when asked about her passions. Brooke doesn't just talk the talk. She has walked the walk in just two short years, diving head-first into community involvement. Just a couple of months after arriving in Springfield, she participated in Leadership Springfield's Access Class 13, and she is a graduate of this year's Signature Class 45.



When she is not working as a district manager for Five Below, Brooke usually devotes her time to several area nonprofits. She currently serves as the Board Chair for Girls on the Run of SWMO, Board VP for Cents of Pride, Secretary of the Greene County Domestic Violence Board, and board member of the American Red Cross of Southern Missouri. Brooke was a member of the inaugural class of Biz 417's The Legacy Network. participated in The Greater Missouri Leadership Challenge and was recently recognized as the first recipient of the Springfield Daily Citizen's Emerging Leader Award. Before moving to Springfield, Brooke enjoyed taking horseback riding, tennis, and sign language lessons. She also enjoys trying new local restaurants and visiting Sequiota Park with her golden retriever, Teddy!

Reflecting on her Leadership Springfield program experiences, Brooke shared, "Leadership Springfield has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in my professional career. This invaluable [Signature Class] program helped me understand my personal strengths and how to effectively leverage them in the workplace and as a community leader. My participation in the Signature Class brought more awareness to our specific community needs and the work that's needed to improve these areas. Now being aware of Springfield's red flags and blue ribbons, I can focus my time and resources where they are most needed."

Brooke's enthusiasm for leadership development and community engagement is infectious, and Leadership Springfield is grateful for her continued support beyond the programs as a Legacy Leaders League donor. "I became a donor of Leadership Springfield because it's important to me that more individuals in our community have a chance to experience this program. I believe in the value of cultivating strong leadership skills as they are essential for fostering positive change and innovation necessary to build a thriving community."

Thank you, Brooke, for championing our mission to inspire, develop, and connect leaders to serve our community!

MEET OUR LIFETIME & VISIONARY LEGACY LEADERS David Hall

Visionary Leader Signature Class 21 Leadership Springfield Board of Directors, Past Board President 2016 Kenworthy Award Winner

David Hall has been involved with Leadership Springfield as an organization in many ways —Signature Class 21 participant, board president, alumni member, Kenworthy Award winner, and most recently, the Legacy Leaders League.

David is currently the Director of Facilities Management at Missouri State University, previously working as the Director of University Safety. Before his career at the university, David was the Fire Chief for the Springfield Fire Department. As a lifelong learner, venturing into new fields is exciting to David. He

was drawn to the differences in each role but also the opportunity to use his skills in leadership, strategic planning, and vision casting, to name a few.

His latest role as Director of Facilities Management relates closely to one of his greatest hobbies - woodworking. David enjoys building small woodworking projects from scratch. Some notable specialty projects include a memorial patriot board for a Revolutionary War Cemetery in Ste. Genevieve, MO, and a small business that makes challenge coin displays for Sons of the American Revolution across the US!

David is active in the Springfield Public Schools Community Task Force on Facilities. He has led the group through two major decision-making processes, resulting in the passage of two bond issues alongside his cochair, Bridget Dierks. "While challenging at times, it has been an extremely rewarding process that will have significant impact on Springfield children for decades to come." David is also an active member of his HOA, having served as the Treasurer for the past nine years. He's also brought his leadership skills to that role, educating the residents, identifying their true concerns, identifying solutions, and getting their support on projects.

David has taken our mission to inspire, develop, and connect leaders to serve to heart. He values his Leadership Springfield connections, sharing, "It's hard to talk about Leadership Springfield without talking about the connections you make. I regularly see and interact with classmates and other Leadership Springfield graduates. This isn't surprising because those who are or will be, making a difference in our community are the ones who attend this program. Those connections allow you to accomplish more for our community because relationships are the keys to success."

Between the quality of his experience in the Signature Class program and the need he sees for increased leadership all across our community, he continues to stay involved with the organization as a Legacy Leader donor. "We need strong leaders in our local governments, strong leaders in our non-profits, and strong leaders in our businesses. I couldn't think of a better way to support the future of the community that has given me so much than by supporting THE program that impacts each of those areas."

Thank you, David, for your steady community leadership and support of Leadership Springfield over the years!

MEET OUR LIFETIME & VISIONARY LEGACY LEADERS

Don Harkey

Visionary Leader Signature Class 29 Leadership Springfield Board of Directors, Past Board President

Don Harkey is a long-time champion of Leadership Springfield. Having graduated from Signature Class 29, he has stayed involved with the organization as a member of the Board of Directors, serving as President from 2018-2020, Signature Class Facilitator, Curriculum Committee advisor, alumni member, and now the Legacy Leaders League.

Don loves seeing people unleash their potential. When asked about his passions he reflected on his previous career as an engineer, "I got really interested in what made people and teams successful (or unsuccessful), so I started studying the science of how people work best. I was surprised to find the science is really well understood, but the application of the science (the engineering) was missing. I started to learn how to engineer leaders, teams, and organizations where people would feel empowered and aligned."

Don is the CEO of People Centric Consulting Group. In this role, he spends his time supporting the team, evangelizing the People Centric message, and working with some clients. Don shared about the People Centric team's community involvement, "Our team is amazing! We support our community wherever our team is passionate by applying our services. We've supported numerous non-profits in our community with pro-bono work. Our team has been behind the scenes at some critical moments of key nonprofits in our area."

The connections introduced by Leadership Springfield spread far beyond our programs, influencing careers, civic engagement, community projects, mentor relationships, and more. Don is no stranger to this ripple effect and impact. "My Leadership Springfield experience both as a class member, as a facilitator and as a board member has created some of the most rewarding moments of my career. The connections I've made have impacted myself and others. The concepts I've learned got me thinking about how to truly impact a community," he shares. "Leadership Springfield has been a fuel to my fire."

Don's continued involvement with our programs, alumni, and community is inspiring and encouraging. Most recently, Don joined the Leadership Springfield Legacy Leaders League as a donor, furthering his connection with our mission to inspire, develop, and connect leaders to serve the community. "As a former board member, I'm very aware of the trajectory of Leadership Springfield and knew that my financial gift would make a real impact. Leadership Springfield continues to multiply its impact on the community."

Thank you, Don, for your ongoing support and engagement with Leadership Springfield!

Thank you to our anonymous Legacy Leaders League donors for your support of our mission!



INVEST IN LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY

Donate here to join the Legacy Leaders League.



"This class was so impressive, and I left feeling so motivated to continue learning and bettering myself. I've already had so many meaningful conversations with friends and co-workers about our last few days, so thank you!" –Access Class Graduate