



# LEADERSHIP NORTHWEST FLORIDA

Regional Collaboration through Community, Content, and Connection

*A Program of Florida's Great Northwest Foundation*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For Northwest Florida to continue to compete, diversify and thrive, it will take informed, dedicated leaders who understand the complex and competitive environment of economic transformation. [Leadership Northwest Florida](#) is designed to be an educational program offered for professionals in all industry sectors desiring to grow their knowledgebase, network, and skillset in Florida's Great Northwest footprint. This experience will ultimately result in the long-term influence of the leadership graduates for the betterment of Northwest Florida.

The program will focus on [regional collaboration](#) through [community](#), [content](#), and [connection](#). It will inform participants on a holistic view of the conditions, challenges and opportunities that are shared throughout Northwest Florida focusing on the areas of Business Vitality, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Infrastructure, Talent, and Quality of Life. By educating leaders through this program, Northwest Florida will have a pipeline of dedicated, knowledgeable and strong leaders empowered to create an even brighter future for our region.

## MISSION

To cultivate a pipeline of engaged and empowered leaders through [regional collaboration](#) resulting in long-term influence for the betterment of Northwest Florida.

## VISION

[Leadership Northwest Florida](#) will achieve our mission by creating a valuable, unique educational [regional collaboration](#) program uncovering the fabric of Northwest Florida through [community](#), [content](#) and [connection](#).

## PURPOSE & BENEFITS

[Leadership Northwest Florida](#) is an educational program offered for professionals in all industry sectors desiring to grow their knowledgebase, network, and skillset in Florida's Great Northwest footprint. This experience will ultimately result in the long-term influence of the leadership graduates for the betterment of Northwest Florida. Upon completion of the program, participants will:

- Expand personal and professional networks
- Enhance knowledge of Northwest Florida
- Explore regional economic issues and assets
- Gain insights into community issues that impact Northwest Florida
- Prepare for other leadership opportunities
- Develop a shared vision for regional collaboration to promote positive change
- Be exposed to opportunities to engage in strategies and tactics for the betterment of Northwest Florida

## CONTENT / PROGRAM SCHEDULE for 2025-2026

Session One	Thursday, November 6 <sup>th</sup> <i>Afternoon Start</i> & Friday, November 7 <sup>th</sup> <i>Full Day</i>	Opening Retreat Sandestin <i>Mandatory</i>
Session Two	Thursday, December 4 <sup>th</sup> <i>Afternoon Start</i> & Friday, December 5 <sup>th</sup> <i>Full Day</i>	Western Focus: Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties
Session Three	Thursday, January 8 <sup>th</sup> <i>Afternoon Start Day</i> & Friday, January 9 <sup>th</sup> <i>Full Day</i>	Eastern Focus: Bay and Gulf Counties
Session Four	Wednesday, February 11 <sup>th</sup> <i>Afternoon Start</i> & Thursday, February 12 <sup>th</sup> <i>Full Day</i>	Big Bend Focus: Franklin, Liberty and Wakulla Counties & Northwest Florida Days at the Capitol – Tallahassee
Sessions Five	Wednesday, March 11 <sup>th</sup> <i>Afternoon Start</i> & Thursday, March 12 <sup>th</sup> <i>Full Day</i>	I-10 Corridor Focus: Holmes, Washington, Jackson and Calhoun Counties

Session Six	Thursday, April 9 <sup>th</sup> <i>Afternoon Start</i> & Friday, April 10 <sup>th</sup> <i>Full Day</i>	Central Focus: Okaloosa and Walton Counties
Session Seven	Thursday, May 7 <sup>th</sup> <i>Afternoon Start</i> & Friday, May 8 <sup>th</sup> <i>Half Day</i>	Final Session & Graduation Sandestin <i>Mandatory</i>
*Focused on expanding knowledge in the five areas of Business Vitality, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Infrastructure, Talent, and Quality of Life		

## EMPLOYER & PERSONAL COMMITMENT

The schedule of [Leadership Northwest Florida](#) is intense as a seven-session program presented across the region. Participation is imperative to receive the full value of the time and money invested in the program. Program participants are expected to be actively engaged and attend all sessions. Any absences, both expected or emergency, must be discussed promptly between the participant, FGNW staff, and the participant's employer.

## TUITION AND PAYMENT POLICY

Tuition to participate in [Leadership Northwest Florida](#) is:

- FGNW Investors: \$2,250
- Non-FGNW Investors: \$3,000

Tuition covers registration fees, activities, meeting materials, space rentals, meals, opening retreat, graduation, and transportation services when applicable. Tuition does not include travel across the region or overnight accommodations. Payment via check or ACH is due within 15 days of acceptance into the program. If tuition is not received by this date, you may be dropped from the class.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Florida's Great Northwest Foundation Board of Directors serves as the selection committee for [Leadership Northwest Florida](#). FGNW investors will be given selection preference. The FGNW Foundation seeks to identify individuals most likely to utilize their leadership abilities for the long-term benefit and betterment of Northwest Florida.

Characteristics of ideal applicants include:

- Experienced professionals with community and/or career leadership contributions
- Demonstrated commitment to the community and region through past and present activities
- Willingness to commit the time and energy necessary for the program and future involvement in regional economic development
- Demonstrated leadership trajectory
- Formal commitment and full support of current employer

The deadline to receive your application will be 5:00 pm Central Standard Time on Wednesday, August 21, 2025. Applications and all materials must be emailed to Kasey Killebrew at [kkillebrew@fgnw.org](mailto:kkillebrew@fgnw.org).

For questions or additional information, please contact:

Kasey Killebrew

334.790.4557

[kkillebrew@fgnw.org](mailto:kkillebrew@fgnw.org)

