



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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2 pages

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## **Highlands Chamber of Commerce Announces Leadership Highlands 2023 Class**

**HIGHLANDS, N.C.** – Leadership Highlands, a Highlands Chamber of Commerce / Visit Highlands, NC community engagement program, today announced its 2023 class.

The educational program is aimed at emerging and existing leaders in the Highlands community, offering an opportunity to enhance civic knowledge, leadership skills and network. Those selected commit to and engage in an eight-month curriculum, from March through October, that includes a retreat, day-long classes each month, a variety of enrichment workshops and projects, and a graduation ceremony.

“We are so excited about our Leadership Highlands 2023 class members,” says Kaye McHan, executive director of Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC. “Their various business and nonprofit backgrounds will enrich the learning, dialogues and experience for all.”

Members of Leadership Highlands 2023 include: William Beck, Joshua Bryson, Michelle Davis, Timothy Dearth, Christopher Duffy, Keith Gilbert, Daryl Griswold, Jane Jerry, Samantha Mattern, Karin Peterson, James Spencer, Margaret Shutze, Carol Taylor and Jerry Wilson.

Resurrected in 2022 after a hiatus, Leadership Highlands brings together local experts and class members to engage and discuss topics such as Highlands’ history and cultural resources, economic development, government and public safety, health and human resources, education, arts and outdoor recreation. Personal leadership skills are developed through principle-based decision-making and team-building exercises. The Leadership Highlands 2022 class had 12 graduates. Selection criteria includes civic involvement, leadership potential, diversity of perspective and commitment to the program and the Highlands community. A committee comprised of Highlands Chamber of Commerce staff, Board of Directors members and previous participants selects the class.

### ***About the Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC and Leadership Highlands:***

Formed in 1931 to serve as the voice of business, the Highlands Chamber of Commerce has grown to provide services and support to locally active businesses, organizations, residents, and visitors. Conveniently located on Main Street in the Marchant-Parker-Davis-Patterson House, its Highlands Welcome Center is open to all who visit, live and work in the community. The Highlands Chamber of Commerce/Visit Highlands, NC hosts an array of special events and programs throughout the year, including the Plateau Pick-Up, Leadership Highlands, Business After Hours, the Outdoor Concert Series, Meander in May, July 4<sup>th</sup> Concert & Fireworks, Light Up the Park & Main, Highlands Christmas Parade, Snow Fest @ 4118 and an array of additional activities throughout the year.

*For more information about the Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Leadership Highlands, visit [highlandschamber.org](http://highlandschamber.org) or call 828-526-5841.*

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