

North Iowa Future Leaders

Leadership North Iowa & YIELD Class of 2025



**Chamber of
Commerce**
GREATER MASON CITY

LEADERSHIP NORTH IOWA

For the past 43 years, the Greater Mason City Chamber of Commerce has equipped emerging leaders in North Iowa with the skills, connections, and confidence to make a meaningful impact. **Leadership North Iowa (LNI)** blends leadership training with access to established business leaders, giving participants practical insights and a strong professional network.

The program also highlights all that North Iowa has to offer, connecting participants to the community and to each other. **LNI** graduates consistently become high-potential leaders ready to take on greater roles.

The impact of **LNI** looks different for everyone - some are inspired to run for office or serve on local boards, while others engage more deeply in volunteerism or step into new leadership roles at work. No matter the path, **LNI** is often credited as the spark that motivates individuals to get involved and invest in the causes they care about.

LNI Program Sponsors



Class Sessions and Speakers

Leadership & Personality Styles

Michael Voet | MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center

Networking Skills & Building Relationships

Colleen Frein | Greater Mason City Chamber of Commerce

Servant Leadership

North Iowa non-profits & service clubs

Business Support of the Military

Daniel Fehr & Katie Troe | Iowa National Guard

Public Speaking

Amanda Spiers | Dale Carnegie

Distribution in North Iowa

Sam Oman & Angie Harris | McKesson Corporation

Education & Workforce Pipeline

Melinda McGregor, Alyse DeVries, Ashley Page, Anthony Riesen, Bob Godfrey, Rachel Wumkes, Mary Jo Vrba | NIACC

Government & Citizenship - Day on the Hill

Leadership vs. Management

Paul Manternach | MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center
John Derryberry | 43 North Iowa
Diane Arndt | Reflections Salon

Graduation Keynote: Bright, Dynamic Energy

Dr. Claire Muselman | Drake University



Community Impact Project

The **Leadership North Iowa** program inspires participants to practice servant leadership by putting the well-being of people and the community at the center of their work. Each cohort selects a community betterment project and commits to seeing it through, often continuing their efforts after graduation. Through this hands-on experience, participants strengthen their teamwork, dedication, and problem-solving skills. Their projects not only enhance local spaces and experiences but also encourage North Iowans to connect more actively with one another.

North Iowa LINC - Young Professionals

This year's **LNI** class saw a need for connection among young professionals in the area and wanted to start a network to support emerging leaders and strengthen North Iowa's future. As a result, the group created **North Iowa LINC** (Leadership, Inclusion, Networking, Community), a program designed to support early-career individuals through mentorship, networking, and growth opportunities.

The class researched other young professional programs across the country, surveyed locals, and worked together to provide an organizational and financial structure for program sustainability. In addition to marketing and programming sub groups, a team of five **LNI** students formed the **LINC** Leadership team to guide the program in its first year under the Chamber umbrella.

Since its inception in May, **North Iowa LINC** has reached more than 80 young professionals across the region and has grown to 50 official members, confirming the demand for a program of this kind. Participants gain access to events, educational sessions, volunteer opportunities, and a supportive environment that nurtures confidence and professional growth. **LINC** also benefits local businesses by offering a meaningful way to invest in talent development, increase visibility, and strengthen employee retention. Additional details on **LINC** including sponsorship and membership information is available at www.northiowalinc.com.

LINC Program Sponsors:

Special thanks to the businesses sponsors of **North Iowa LINC**: Burgmeier Dentistry, Clear Lake Bank & Trust, CURRIES, Farmers State Bank, First Citizens Bank, Mason City Community School District, Metalcraft, NIACC, and Wayne's.



2025 Leadership North Iowa Class

Participant

Rebekah Baker
 Jaci Ballance
 Joe Burgmeier
 Alex Cook
 Krystal Garl
 Tammy Gladue
 Amanda Golden
 Jayden Harris
 Meriel Johnson
 Lora Juhl
 Domenie LaGue
 Harrison Lippert
 Shawna Malek
 Bayley McCormick
 Ryan Ringgenberg
 Carsten Ruis
 Zoe Schmidt
 Amy Schmitt
 Jake Smithson
 Derek Stricker
 Kristina Torres
 Seth Vogel
 Ansley Waigand
 Amber Wells

Business

Church & Dwight
 First Citizens Bank
 Burgmeier Dentistry
 Bergland + Cram Architects
 City of Mason City
 Holiday Inn Express - Mason City
 Clear Lake Bank & Trust
 Farmers State Bank
 Mason City Parks & Recreation
 North Iowa Area Community College
 First Citizens Bank
 State Farm - Kristy Marquis
 Chevron Renewable Energy Group
 Community Health Center of Mason City
 MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center
 POET Bioprocessing - Hanlontown
 Cargill Protein
 CURRIES
 Cargill Protein
 CURRIES
 Hearing Associates, PC
 Atura Architecture
 First Citizens Bank
 Clear Lake Bank & Trust



Leadership is...



"Leadership means growing the community of people around you by empowering and connecting individuals in order to achieve common goals and create a positive impact."

Rebekah Baker, Church & Dwight

"Leadership is the ability to guide others and help them to grow."

Shawna Malek, Chevron



"Leadership is having accountability to yourself, your colleagues, and your company to complete the tasks at hand to the best of your abilities."

Seth Vogel, Atura Architecture



"A leader is someone who can lead by example. The most respected leaders are those who understand processes from the bottom up, those that have walked the walk and could do the work themselves. Effective leadership is only achieved through mutual respect and teamwork."

Krystal Garl, City of Mason City

"Leadership is the ability to set clear expectations, communicate effectively, and provide support to others in a way that brings out their best while moving the team and organization forward toward collective goals."

Lora Juhl, NIACC



Why we love LNI!

"My favorite thing about LNI was getting to be a part of the beginning of LINC and creating something that has and will hopefully continue to provide a way for young professionals to meet and gain more connections in our community - it was a lot of fun!"



Jayden Harris, Farmers State Bank

"I enjoyed meeting other leaders in the area and finding common ground even though we work in different fields. The variety of speakers was excellent, and the group project provided a great learning experience. I also really enjoyed the tours of different businesses in the area—they were both fun and insightful."



Derek Stricker, CURRIES

"My favorite thing about LNI was listening to the guest speakers talk about different ways they have had to handle adversity and how they continue to find success and lead in their respective fields."



Meriel Johnson, Mason City Parks & Recreation

"I enjoyed meeting a lot of sharp people in the area. I really enjoyed the presentation on personality types and how they differ in their leadership emphasis and style."



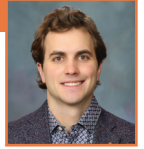
Harrison Lippert, Kristy Marquis State Farm

"My favorite thing about LNI was completing our group project and developing North Iowa LINC! It was such a blessing to find people that had the same interests in creating a place for young professionals to mingle and learn more for career development. Through the process of building such a wonderful group, I have learned the importance of community and encouragement."



Amber Wells, Clear Lake Bank & Trust

Joe Burgmeier, Burgmeier Dentistry



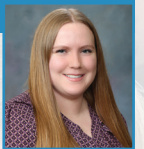
"LNI opened my eyes to so many good things happening in North Iowa and introduced me to some amazing people. I got to learn directly from leaders who genuinely care about this community, and that made a big impact on me. I'm now helping lead North Iowa LINC, where we're bringing young professionals together to connect, grow, and enjoy being part of North Iowa."

Amanda Golden, Clear Lake Bank



"My favorite thing about Leadership North Iowa has been the relationships created from this group. The opportunity was filled with events that were interesting, fun, and engaging! It's been great to watch our community impact project grow!"

Zoe Schmidt, Cargill Protein



"My favorite part of LNI was all of the networking opportunities that also gave me better insight into our community."

Amy Schmitt, CURRIES



"I truly enjoyed meeting new people and collaborating with them on a meaningful project. It was a great opportunity for networking, learning, and personal growth!"



YIELD Youth Investing Energy in Leadership Development

The **YIELD (Youth Investing Energy in Leadership Development)** program was created in 2003 through a partnership between the Chamber and the Mason City Youth Task Force to strengthen leadership skills in promising young adults and connect them with the business community. This year's class includes high school juniors from Mason City High School, Newman Catholic High School, Mason City Alternative School, and North Iowa Christian School, with Chamber members serving as session speakers and mentors. Students participate in leadership modules and complete a Community Impact Project, with past examples including painting interactive sidewalk art, making fleece blankets for children in need, and helping renovate Prairie Playground.

Now more than 20 years strong, **YIELD** has become a regional model for youth leadership development. School administrators consistently note that graduates are among their most engaged and successful students, demonstrating the program's lasting impact.



Community Impact Project

The Social Study

Each year, **YIELD** students complete a Community Impact Project as part of their graduation requirement, and this year's class chose to transform a vacant storefront in Southbridge Mall into a student study and lounge space. Their vision is to create a safe, welcoming, and affordable environment where area high school students can study, relax, and connect, while also bringing new life to unused space in the downtown mall.

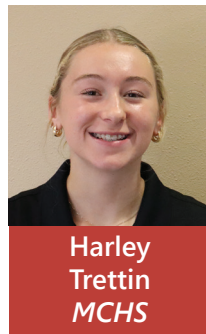
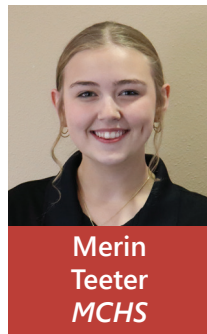
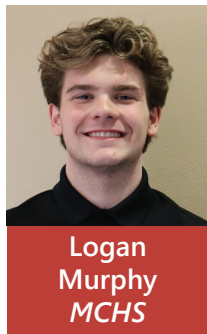
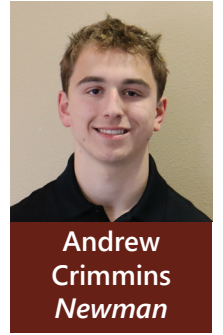
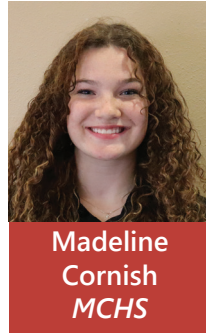
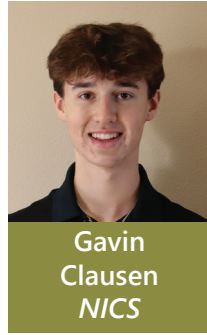
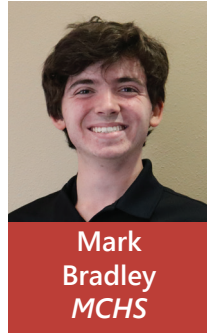
"The Social Study" will launch in January and operate throughout the school year, open to high school students on Mondays and Thursdays from 4:30-6:30PM and Wednesdays from 3:30-5:30PM. The project is student-run, staffed by **YIELD** participants and other youth groups who have volunteered to support the effort.

To prepare the space, the class completed minor aesthetic updates, including fresh paint and carpet cleaning, and put in hours of hands-on work. They gathered donations of gently used furniture, recruited peer groups to assist with staffing, and marketed the space to local students.

Special thanks to Barber's Premier Carpet Cleaning, Brick Furniture, O'Brien Moving & Storage, Sherwin Williams, the Beth E. Reinhart Charitable Trust, and individual donors for helping make the project possible.



2025 YIELD Class



YIELD SPONSORS

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**Scan here for a list of
YIELD Alumni 2004-2025**



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