



## Frequently Asked Questions

**1. What exactly is the Leadership Institute?**

The Leadership Institute is a nine-month program conducted by Highland Community College for individuals who are interested in the future of Stephenson County. Each year, approximately twenty participants gather regularly to study leadership topics and discuss important County issues.

**2. What is the purpose of the Institute?**

The purpose of the Institute is to create a network of local leaders who are knowledgeable about community issues, are able to demonstrate effective leadership skills, and are committed to improving our organizations and communities.

**3. When and how often does the Institute meet?**

After an opening two and a half day overnight retreat in September, the Institute typically meets on the third Wednesday of the month September through May from 8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

**4. Where does the Institute meet?**

Although the Institute meets quite often at Highland Community College, it also tries to meet in different Stephenson County locales, giving participants the opportunity to learn more about all areas of the County. Meetings are held in schools, town halls, businesses, community buildings or public meeting spaces.

**5. What happens at each Institute session?**

Mornings are spent exploring, discussing and practicing various aspects of effective leadership. In the afternoon session, County leaders share information about important County topics such as: land use and conservation, tourism, economic development, transportation, education, youth and senior issues, and the judicial system.

**6. How can I participate in the Institute?**

The first step is to obtain an application from Evan Talbert, Highland Community College, 815-599-3510 or [evan.talbert@highland.edu](mailto:evan.talbert@highland.edu), complete and return. The approximately twenty participants are selected from the pool of applicants on the basis of their interest in community issues and how well they reflect and represent the diversity of the County

**7. How much does it cost? Who pays for it? Can I earn college credit?**

Tuition cost for the nine-month program (6 Highland Community College Credit Hours) is \$1,500.00. An additional fee of \$500.00 is charged for books and materials. Often a sponsoring organization or employer will pay the entire cost for an individual. Occasionally participants will pay a portion of the costs with a sponsor paying the remainder.

**8. If my employer/sponsor or I are unable to meet the program costs, is there some kind of tuition assistance available to help offset the tuition and fees?**

Yes. Because of the generous support of numerous Stephenson County benefactors, full or partial scholarship assistance is available upon request at the time of acceptance into the program.

