



**LEADERSHIP
KERSHAW
COUNTY**

A PARTNERSHIP OF THE KERSHAW COUNTY CHAMBER
& UNITED WAY OF KERSHAW COUNTY

2025-2026

The 3rd year class of Leadership Kershaw County in our community is upon us! The United Way of Kershaw County and the Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce are partnering to provide an interactive and engaging leadership program in Kershaw County that integrates the business and non-profit sector in a way that builds our community's capacity, equipping seasoned and emerging leaders to lead our county forward in the years to come.

This year we will begin August 13 with a full day retreat followed in the months to come with 7 dynamic sessions to build knowledge and understanding of our community paired with leadership development skills to actionably be engaged in our community.

As we begin year three of our revived Leadership Program in Kershaw County, we encourage folks to apply for the limited number of slots we have available! You can access the application online at the Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce web site under Leadership Kershaw County.

The steering committee for 2025-26 included the following community leaders:

UWKC Board Chair
KC Chamber Board Member
City of Camden Former Mayor
Minister
Leadership KC Graduate
Leadership KC Graduate
KC Chamber Executive Director
UWKC President

Dan Matthews
Sallie Harrell
Alfred Mae Drakeford
Marion Bennett
Kenneth Hancock
Stephanie Raley
Amy Kinard
Donny Supplee





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The Program Committee is responsible for leading a program in a specific focus area. The retreat team, and a leader for each program area will guide the program content, location(s), presenters and timeline.

The leader for each area is responsible for developing, organizing, scheduling and implementing the plan for each program area.

Responsibilities include developing a program plan that meets the program goals established by the steering committee, developing an agenda, speakers, venue, activities and overall oversight of the program.

The program begins with all participants completing a DISC Assessment helping individuals understand their leadership style and those of others.

Lefford Fate and Ashley Wright will then lead a full day retreat with a closer examination of the DISC and other components of leadership, teamwork and personal development.

Next the program has 6 sessions followed by a graduation ceremony over a 10-month period. Each session will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month with a few exceptions. There will be a retreat and sessions covering the following topics:

- Business & Industry
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Education & Arts
- Government & Law Enforcement
- Health & Wellness
- Non-Profits & Faith Groups

Additionally, the class will collaborate in selecting, developing and implementing a community project.

Leadership topics from a non-profit and business perspective that grow seasoned and emerging leaders for service on non-profit boards of directors, community and business leadership opportunities throughout the county.

Topics will include: Ethics, mission and vision, strategic planning, fund raising, finances, marketing, diversity, inclusion and equity.



A major goal of the class is to build Leadership skills of both individuals and the team as a whole. Understanding and addressing various perspectives in a way that builds community is key to having a thriving community for all!

For the second year we are pleased to be working closely with Lefford Fate on this year's Leadership KC Program. Attached is some information on his background, experience and expertise in the field. We are honored to have him on our team!



Lefford Fate

We were introduced to Mr. Fate a few years ago United Way of Kershaw County board chair, Chris McKinney. In 2023, as a member of the inaugural Leadership KC Steering Committee, Mr. McKinney helped us identify a speaker for our graduating class of Leadership Kershaw County. Dynamic, engaging and caring fall short of describing our new friend, Lefford Fate.

Lefford Fate has diverse work experience spanning several industries and roles. He started their career in the United States Air Force, where he served in various leadership positions, including Command Chief for the 505th Command and Control Wing and the 20th Fighter Wing. Lefford was responsible for the training, welfare, and morale of thousands of personnel.

After leaving the military, Fate worked as the Program Director for the Senior Life Improvement Center at Tuomey Hospital, where they were accountable for the clinical and administrative operations of the facility. Lefford also served as the Deputy Director of Health Services for the South Carolina Department of Corrections, overseeing medical and health services for the entire department.

Fate also has experience in the public sector, working as the Support Services Director for the City of Sumter. In this role, they provided support to

all city departments, coordinated special projects, and developed management directives.