

Learn today.
Change tomorrow.

Previous ZBLA participants said:
“ZBLA is a proactive program to identify those who have a passion to be leaders in Zion, Winthrop Harbor and Beach Park.”

“Going through the academy has truly changed my life. I’m now involved in my community and connected to other leaders in a more meaningful way.”

“This program is one of the best things I’ve ever been a part of.”

How do I apply?

Apply online at www.zbla.info or zbleadershipacademy@gmail.com to request an application.

Applicants must be 18 or older and live in Beach Park, Winthrop Harbor or Zion.

Get involved!

Refer potential participants. Consider employees, neighbors and relatives as emerging leaders.

Serve as a mentor. Share your expertise and skills and provide guidance to your matched participant during the program.

Provide placement for ZBLA graduates. Invite a graduate to serve on a committee for a local agency, church or other group or intern for your organization.

Zion-Benton
Leadership Academy
is sponsored by:



Coalition for Healthy Communities

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ZION-BENTON
LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY



Developing the next
generation of leaders in the
Zion-Benton community
for a lifetime of
service and success.

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” ~Gandhi

Agencies and organizations in Beach Park, Winthrop Harbor and Zion need community leaders who reflect the diversity of the people they serve.

The Zion-Benton Leadership Academy was developed to nurture a new generation of leaders for our community. Its aim is to identify, assist and empower individuals to become active and inspiring contributors in our community.

The six-session curriculum features distinguished community leaders and training experts sharing their ideas, perspectives and experiences. The courses will concentrate on development of personal, ethical, leadership and managerial skills and provide grounding in the history and culture of the Zion-Benton community.

What does it take to be a Zion-Benton Leadership Academy participant?

The ideal leader is engaged, open-minded, compassionate, imaginative, honest and progressive. ZBLA is seeking candidates with some or all of those attributes. As a ZBLA participant, you can learn what it takes to be a leader who will help change the future of the

Zion-Benton community. You will be carefully matched to individual mentors with similar interests and backgrounds. Past mentors include school superintendents, pastors, business owners, organization leaders and interested citizens.

What is the time commitment?

- Participate in an interview in May.
- Attend bi-weekly ZBLA group sessions, from September through November.
- Meet regularly with ZBLA mentor, typically bi-weekly, during duration of the academy.
- Attend the ZBLA graduation in November.
- 2nd year self-paced leadership training.



The academy helps develop participants by improving knowledge, skills and abilities in the following areas:

The Community

- History of Beach Park, Winthrop Harbor and Zion
- An overview of community organizations and agency opportunities

Personal Skills

- Time management
- Setting goals and priorities
- Putting your best foot forward

Ethical Skills

- Decision making
- Conflict resolution
- Perseverance

Leadership Skills

- Building relationships
- How to run for public office in Illinois
- Aligning desire and interest with opportunity

Managerial Skills

- Budgeting and finance
- Meeting dynamics
- Policy, procedure and planning