



LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

2026 PROGRAM

Friday, March 6th **8:30 am – 4:00 pm** **Kickoff Retreat**

Location: TBD

Orientations, class materials, meet classmates, team building exercises

Sunday, March 8th **3:00 pm – 5:30 pm** **History of Blowing Rock**

Location: TBD

Afternoon high tea to hear from locals and historians about Blowing Rock's history.

Wednesday, March 11th **1:00 pm – 5:00 pm** **Civic Engagement**

Location: TBD

Presentations from government, city, and county officials; functions and operations will be reviewed.

Wednesday, March 18th **1:00 pm – 5:00 pm** **Infrastructure and Environment**

Location: TBD

Tour local businesses, speakers to discuss the local economy. (Sectors: Tourism, real estate, retail, services)

Wednesday, March 25th **1:00 pm – 5:00 pm** **Workforce Development**

Location: TBD

Role of the local continuing education; Watauga EDC, NC Works, and the new RISE.)





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Wednesday, April 1st

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Economic Development

Location: TBD

Tour waste water treatment plant; discuss the environmental challenges and infrastructure challenges our communities are facing.

Wednesday, April 8th

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Arts and Culture

Location: TBD

Review the role that the Arts play in our local community and economy.

Wednesday, April 15th

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Health and Human Services

Location: TBD

Presentations and tours planned by local organizations, social services and other community based groups.

Wednesday, April 22nd

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Closing Session

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Graduation Dinner

Location: TBD

Review the program; closing speaker to tie the program together. Graduation speaker to challenge the class into the future.

