



Purpose

In 2007 the Gulf Coast Business Council Research Foundation launched the Masters Leadership Program to identify and develop emerging leaders of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The program brings together 20 of the Coast's leaders to become the regional "think tank" for one year. Each year the class learns, challenges assumptions, and develops solutions on elements that lead to **making the Gulf Coast region the most livable place in the United States**.

The 2015 Program theme is "**Broadband for the Coast**"

The Master's program consists of 8 sessions held from May through November. These sessions are designed to develop and enhance critical leadership skills of Gulf Coast leaders. The theme-based program creates a practical application forum where the curriculum is applied to build individual leadership skills and enhance group leadership capacities of these leaders. The 2015 curriculum includes the following study areas:

- Making the case for addressing and resolving the issue - (Building a business case)
- Influencing the Political Will - (Navigating the political landscape)
- Developing a Regional Strategy - (Strategic Planning)
- Negotiating for Regional Mutual Gain - (Negotiating with and building consensus within groups)
- Producing Resources to Get Things Done - (Developing the financial support needed)

In addition, the class will visit another city in the United States that is a model for success in this area, and learn how they have drawn upon their own regional assets to effect change in their communities.

The culmination of these sessions and field study will result in the class developing a position paper on recommended solutions and courses of actions that will be presented to the Gulf Coast Business Council.

The class will have the opportunity to meet and dialogue with leaders and strategists with expertise in this area, and to develop solutions to improve our Coast. In addition, the class will have the opportunity to sustain its work after 2015 by engaging in implementing their recommendations through the Business Council.

The Masters Program does not seek to replace or replicate other leadership programs in each of the three Coast counties but is designed to enhance the skills developed there at a deeper and more engaged level.

Instructions

Type or print in black ink. Please complete each section fully. Limit answers to the space available. Application must be signed by both applicant and employer or sponsoring organization (as applicable) and **received** by the GULF COAST BUSINESS COUNCIL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, 11975 Seaway Road, Suite A120 Gulfport, MS 39503 by *close of business on **March 13, 2015***.



Selection Criteria

Participation in the MASTERS PROGRAM is open to persons living or working in one of the three Coast counties of Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson who possess a demonstrated ability to critically examine issues on a regional basis and actively engage in efforts important to the region. Applicants should have a demonstrated record of leadership in their respective businesses or other organizations. No more than 25 individuals will be appointed to participate in the program. Applicants not selected this year may be nominated in subsequent years.

Participants will be chosen by a confidential selection committee based upon the information completed on this application. The committee will seek a diverse class but will not select participants based upon a predetermined apportionment system.

Applicants must have the full support of the organization or corporation they represent. Full tuition is \$1,200 per selected member and is due within 30 days of selection. Scholarships are available on a limited basis and are capped at 40% (\$480).

Attendance at and engagement in each of the eight sessions is mandatory. Those who fail to attend or to actively participate may be asked to withdraw, with no refund of tuition.

Selected applicants must not participate in any other community leadership program while simultaneously participating in the Masters Program (e.g. Leadership Mississippi, Gulf Coast, Hancock County, or Jackson County).

III. EMPLOYMENT

Present Employer _____ Service Date _____

Type of Organization _____

Title or Responsibility _____ Since _____

A. Briefly describe your responsibilities in your employment:

B. List previous employment in reverse order: (Include active military duty.)

Employer	Title/Responsibility	From	To
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

C. What do you consider your highest professional achievement to date?

D. Business/Professional Affiliations (if any):

(Not including civic organizations, public office or political activities)

Name or Group	Positions Held or Assignments	Period of Affiliation
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_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

IV. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

A. Include community, civic, religious, political, government, social, athletic, or other activities. Do not include business/professional activities. Include current major role in the organization:

Organization _____

Assignment/Position _____

Describe _____

Organization _____

Assignment/Position _____

Describe _____

VI. COMMITMENT

To graduate from the **MASTERS PROGRAM**, a participant is expected to attend and engage in all sessions. Most of the below sessions are expected to last full a day.

Event	Date	Purpose
Welcome Reception and Orientation	Thursday, April 9, 2015 <i>5:30 pm – 7:30 pm</i>	Orientation and introduction of Class to the GCBC Board of Directors
<i>Sessions are generally from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm</i>		
Session 1	Thursday May 7, 2015	Making the Case
Session 2	Wednesday, June 17, 2015 – Friday, June 19, 2015	Travel to the Model City (2 night stay)
Session 3	Wednesday, June 24, 2015 <i>1/2 Day Session</i>	Trip Debrief
Session 4	Wednesday, July 8, 2015	Influencing the Political Will
Session 5	Wednesday, August 19, 2015	Developing a Regional Strategy
Session 6	Wednesday, September 16, 2015	Negotiating for Regional Mutual Gain
Session 7	Thursday, October 15, 2015	Producing Resources to Get Things Done
Session 8 and Graduation	Wednesday, November 11, 2015 <i>1/2 Day Work Session / Lunch / Graduation</i>	Development of position paper - Graduation and Celebration

AGREEMENT:

I understand the purposes of the MASTERS PROGRAM and if I am selected, I will devote the time and resources necessary to actively engage in each session. I am not participating and will not participate in other community leadership programs during the tenure of the 2015 Masters Program. I understand the above commitment and agree to be bound by them in signing this application.

Applicant Signature Date

VII. SCHOLARSHIP NEED

If you are requesting a tuition scholarship, please briefly describe the reason for you request and the amount requested. The maximum scholarship available is 40% of tuition (\$480):

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Reason: _____

Applicant Signature (if requesting scholarship) Date

VII. EMPLOYER COMMITMENT (if applicable)

This application has the approval of this organization and the applicant has our full support which includes the time required to participate in the program.

Firm _____

Signature _____
Title

VIII. TUITION

If accepted into the MASTERS PROGRAM, you or your employer/sponsor will be responsible for the tuition fee of \$1,200 which covers all program costs, unless scholarship is awarded. (Costs include meals, outside area travel, required books, other reading material, supplies and graduation recognition) Checks should be made payable to “**Gulf Coast Business Council**” and mailed to the address below.

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED OR DELIVERED TO:

GULF COAST BUSINESS COUNCIL
RESEARCH FOUNDATION
11975 SEAWAY ROAD, SUITE A120
GULFPORT, MS 39503

OR FAXED TO: (228) 896-8384 ATTENTION: MASTERS APPLICATION