

## Network Brown County

Serves as an opportunity for community members to network while developing leadership skills and gathering knowledge of the trends, challenges and issues that face our communities and Brown County.

## Value to Employers

- Effective leadership skill development and increased insight of employees.
- Provides countywide professional networking opportunities
- Offers exposure for your business
- Improves employee's vision for "big picture" thinking.
- Provides low-cost personal and professional development to improve leadership skills.

## Value to participants

- Enhance your personal leadership and team-building skills.
- Build connections with community leaders and community organizations.
- Gain a greater understanding and perspective of the communities and the county.
- Increase awareness of issues and challenges affecting the broader area.

Network Brown County Leadership Program participants are expected to attend all sessions. If you are unable to make the necessary commitment, it is not in your best interest to apply at this time.

## Mission

The Network Brown County program is designed to help current and emerging leaders understand the dynamics of the community and the role leadership shares in building healthy communities. This program brings together Brown County residents of diverse backgrounds to share a common commitment to the future health of this area.

## Learn New Skills

Leadership seminars and exercises will teach skills in communication, managing conflict, group interaction, cultivating civic leadership, building consensus, and how to work together in teams more effectively. Participants will have the opportunity to practice the skills learned while planning and carrying out the next year's program.

## Meet New People

As a participant, you will meet a diverse group of people, rub elbows with local and regional community leaders and build a leadership network to assist you personally and professionally.

## Discover New Places

Participants will tour industries, city facilities, unique businesses, local farms, historic sites, county parks, and much more.

## Session Topics

Typical session runs 8 am – 4 pm

### **September 10, 2009 - Hanska**

Getting to Know You and Brown County  
Seminar: Developing Exceptional  
Personal Leadership  
Happenings in Hanska

### **October 8, 2009 – New Ulm**

Brown County History / Tourism

### **November 12, 2009 - Comfrey**

Seminar: Managing Group Interaction  
A Twist on Comfrey

### **December 10, 2009 – Springfield\***

Building Community – Nativity Pageant  
*This session will begin late morning  
and go into the evening.*

### **January 14, 2010 – New Ulm**

Seminar: Navigating Conflict Successfully  
Who's Who in County Government

### **February 11, 2010 – Sleepy Eye**

"Open Your Eyes to Sleepy Eye"

### **March 11, 2010 – New Ulm**

Seminar: Bridging Generational  
Differences  
New Ulm Business/Industry

### **April 8, 2010 – Ag Day**

Agriculture Today

### **May 13, 2010 – Wheeling Around the County**

Natural Resources & Historic Spots  
Toasts and good wishes - Graduation

## **Applicant Information**

- Class is limited to 24 people.
- The cost for the program is \$250 which covers all materials, meals, refreshments, bus tours, and social events
- Tuition support may be offered by selected employers as professional development. Please inquire with your employer.
- *Additional scholarships are available to qualifying participants.*
- Participants should live or work in Brown County and agree to attend all sessions.
- Acceptance is based on a demonstrated interest in the Brown County area, a desire to better understand and improve leadership skill, interest in future community involvement, the ability to commit the time needed to attend program sessions and representation from diverse groups.
- *Deadline for submitting application is August 15, 2009.*
- Return completed application to Bridging Brown County, 115 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085. 507-794-4733

## **Comments by Past Participants**

***“It really opened up my eyes to what really goes on in Brown County. It took away a little of my tunnel vision as far as only worrying about me and my neighborhood or town.”***

***“We have more beauty than I remembered! I’m motivated to see and learn more about MY home area.”***

***“I’m amazed how small towns are able to be linked to the global community.”***

***“I’ve taken many courses ... that don’t exactly fit – this one was great!”***

***“It’s a wonderful way to showcase each community in our county. It allows us to learn more about the Ag industry and the conservation program. I highly recommend this program!”***

***“The overall picture of how important agriculture is to Brown County is an asset that we take for granted.”***



## **Bridging Brown County**

Strengthening the Brown County community by bridging relationships of understanding and communication

## **Network Brown County Leadership Program 2009-2010**

**Bridging Communities  
Through Leadership for  
the Next Century**

Sponsored by Bridging Brown County with the University of Minnesota Extension Service.

[www.bridgingbrowncounty.org](http://www.bridgingbrowncounty.org)