



**A YEAR (OR SO) IN REVIEW 2017**

**2017**



# A Year (or so) in Review 2017

**100+ 350+ 1500+ 3000+**

While numbers don't tell the full story, these numbers represent the past year or so of Leadership Lincoln. In short, we had over 100 people participate in one of our four classes, there were more than 350 alumni and other volunteers help plan and lead those classes and our public events touched well over 1,500 people. To top it all off, we went past the 3,000 alumni mark.



*Participants in the Fellows, Academy, Executive and Youth programs begin their time with us as individuals and soon form life long friendships as they work together during their year with Leadership Lincoln.*

So, here's the rest of the story. There can be no doubt that our success in 2017, in a large part is because the organization has a solid foundation. We passed our 32nd anniversary and along the way someone counted up our alumni. There are over 3,000 of them in and around our fair city and scattered across the country. What's even more impressive than the number is how these folks are involved. Some sit on the Lincoln City Council. Some on the Board of Rotary 14. Some are Lancaster County Commissioners. We have alumni running Heartland Big Brothers Big Sisters. There are Leadership Lincoln graduates in the Nebraska State Senate. Lincoln's Police Chief and Fire Chief participated. Some of the top leadership of Assurity Insurance, Olsson Associates, Lincoln Public Schools, Nelnet, Lincoln Industries (well,

we could go on but you get the picture) have participated in our programs. We meant what we said about a solid foundation and our alumni make up a significant part of that foundation.

In 2017, we went a little more public with some of our activities. We openly invited the public to our Hot Topics programs, and learned that they're interested, too. Our programs touched on the Lincoln City Council election, homelessness in Lincoln, creating community in an age of media disruption and development in Northeast Lincoln among other topics. The program on the homeless in Lincoln attracted one of the largest audiences we've ever seen at a Hot Topics program. We packed in around 100 folks to hear how they could make an impact on the homeless

in Lincoln. Here are interviews which we did in connection with one of our programs about redevelopment in Northeast Lincoln. [youtu.be/RYdP\\_qZgwJk](https://youtu.be/RYdP_qZgwJk)

An event that was new in 2016, the State of the City breakfast, was a successful repeat during 2017. Over 400 people enjoyed a rousing opening commentary on Lincoln by native son Steve Dosskey. He got people so fired up they gave him a standing ovation. Long time Lincoln resident Dr. Marilyn Moore was recognized for her service to the community, our classes for the 2017-18 program year were introduced and Mayor Chris Beutler talked about the future of Lincoln. We think you'll enjoy watching a video of this event. [youtu.be/gSdPrfP\\_K1E](https://youtu.be/gSdPrfP_K1E)

*"Leadership is not a solo sport. We are always stronger when the vision is broadly shared. Lincoln has a blueprint for progress that calls us to work together for economic investment, 21st Century education, innovation and world class infrastructure."*

*— Mayor Chris Beutler*

We discovered that people in Lincoln care about their fellow citizens enough that they want to learn what it's like to experience poverty. For years we've conducted the Poverty Simulation for our Fellows and Youth programs. In 2017, we offered to conduct the simulation for faculty at several Lincoln Public and private schools, Southeast Community College and the UNL College of Law. An open

session for the general public was declared full nearly three weeks before the event was conducted and we started scheduling this event with businesses and other organizations for the future. This video will give you an idea of the experience. [youtu.be/ZoGkka0ZHF8](https://youtu.be/ZoGkka0ZHF8)

Each year, our main call to action is to offer community leadership programs for current and potential leaders from in and around Lincoln. Meeting monthly, these are not just short 60 to 90 minute sessions, but rather day-long intensive, interactive and immersive opportunities for our participants to learn about what makes Lincoln tick, who the key players are and most importantly, how they can get civically involved.



*Each year, the Academy for Local Leadership offers leadership training for a wide variety of people with an interest in minority and under-represented voices in the community.*

In 2017, Leadership Lincoln's original, highly popular Fellows class enjoyed tremendous success including these three significant milestones:

- As members of the 2016-17 class graduated, more than 70 per cent indicated that they had become involved either at a deeper level or as a new participant in serving Lincoln. Our focus is on getting people civically engaged and to hear that graduates from one of our classes had already plugged to such an extent was rewarding.
- The number of applicants for the 2017-18 class far exceeded the number of available slots. We had the challenge of having to turn some applicants away reflecting the need to expand programs in the future.
- Members of the Fellows class of 2017-18 reflected how deeply the poverty simulation impacted them. We prepared a video which will give you an idea. [youtu.be/MT073rbk0nE](https://youtu.be/MT073rbk0nE)

The Academy for Local Leadership continues to help minorities and under-represented populations learn how they can participate in and provide leadership for one of Lincoln's many nonprofits and government boards and commissions. Initiated at the request of many of Lincoln's leaders, the Academy sends numerous well-trained individuals into the community who now serve in such capacities as the Lincoln City Council, on the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights and helping in numerous other organizations. This program, underwritten by the Lincoln Community Health Endowment and supported by the Mayor's office is helping us meet the need for leaders from among Lincoln's minority and under-represented populations.

The third adult program offered by Leadership Lincoln, our Executive Series, once again helped welcome new individuals and couples to Lincoln and helped introduce some who are new to the executive rank to their community. One of our opportunities is to foster interaction among our Fellows, Executive and Academy participants. To that end, we've rolled out a new curriculum and it includes several opportunities for our adult participants to participate in programs and events together.

For example, our public events include ideas and content provided by the very people who have been through our programs and in most cases serve on the various boards, commissions and committees that are the topic of the classes. Providing a great example of that homegrown programming is government day—a day when all of our classes participate in programming that focuses on our local, state and national governments. Those who help plan and present are volunteers and people who serve in our government. We detailed our government classes in an article online. [medium.com/@randybretz/government-up-close-and-personal-a05966a8c5ab](https://medium.com/@randybretz/government-up-close-and-personal-a05966a8c5ab) The same is true of business, education, health services and other content focused days. Our alumni help from concept to completion.

For more than 20 years, we've offered Youth Leadership Lincoln for high school sophomores from all of Lancaster County's schools. Some highlights of our recent classes include:

- Many participants serve in leadership positions in their schools.
- Some helped produce TEDxYouth@Lincoln
- They serve as youth representatives on Commissions and Councils in Lincoln.



*"Since I participated in the Fellows class a few years back, I'm impressed with the growth of our programs and the exciting future we have before us." – Suzanne Sughroue, Board Chair*

Leadership, oversight and support from our Board is contributing to our success and giving us the potential for growth. We continue to be blessed with a very engaged Board made up primarily of alumni of our classes. The makeup of our Board has broadened to include representatives from each of our adult groups and our youth program who regularly participate in work sessions and routinely join us for numerous program days throughout the year.

Our Board undertook a strategic plan during 2017, seeking input from our alumni, the general public and a number of identified leaders in our community. The results validate much of the success of the development and activity we've undertaken in the past few years.

*"Our community is a better place because of Leadership Lincoln"*

According to stakeholder input, Leadership Lincoln has very positive image in the community among businesses, the various levels of government and among

organizations of all sorts. The history of the organization provides the foundation to challenge LL leaders and participants to increase the quality and quantity of our programs. Not a group to rest on past success, the plans we're making for the future and the challenges our Board place before us are ambitious and in keeping with a vibrant growing city.



*One of Leadership Lincoln's community engagement activities has been to offer a glimpse into poverty through a simulation experiential for the staff and faculty of several of Lincoln's schools as well as our classes and the general public.*

To this point we've focused on the people and classes of Leadership Lincoln. We have a new home and a new image in the community as well. After a number of years in the Old City Hall at 9th and "O," we moved to The Foundry (formerly NonProfit Hub) on 14th between "P" and "Q" streets. A comfortable and convenient space, it has positioned us in a much more public place where we can interact with many of our community's leaders on a daily basis.

*"LL Alumni are everywhere in the community, making contributions every day"*

Oh, and the new image . . . a class at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln did a semester-long analysis and recommended not only a new logo but ways we could freshen and increase our image in the community. We listened to what they said and it's working.

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