

# Strategic Leadership Academy

## Class III - Application and Instructions

**What is Strategic Leadership Academy (SLA):** SLA is a community leadership program designed to assist Shawnee County minority residents of color with the requisite skills and knowledge to shape the future of our community and enhance their professional careers. More often than not, minorities (African-Americans and other minorities of color) are not at the table when key initiatives that shape our community or their workplace are being planned and developed. This results in the failure of community needs being addressed by all members of the community and serves as an impediment to the growth and development of minorities in the workplace. As a graduate and active member of SLA, you will gain the knowledge, skills and expertise to proactively engage community partners and those in your workplace such as elected, corporate, and non-profit leaders to create positive outcomes for yourself and the community. In addition to gaining the requisite knowledge, you will also gain a network of knowledgeable and influential leaders who are making a difference in our community and the major organizations in Shawnee County.

SLA provides a combination of in-depth issue based seminars and skills presentations designed to enhance awareness of community issues, as well as, self-awareness of leadership approaches. The program provides community immersion experiences and advanced skill development, which will enable participants to explore critical issues in Shawnee County's governmental, non-profit and business environments. Each member of the class must participate in a class project designed to apply many of the lessons learned in the classroom and community settings. SLA's project is a police community relations initiative designed to build bridges between law enforcement and the community. In addition to your classroom participation, members will be required to devote at least one hour per month in support of the police community relations initiative.

**Who Should Participate:** Anyone interested in improving his/her individual leadership skills and/or desiring to become an effective community leader. Whether you simply desire to learn how the "system" works, considering running for political office, desire to enhance your leadership skills, hoping to gain the knowledge needed to be an effective member of a community board, aspiring to expand your network, etc., this is your opportunity to enhance your individual success, while simultaneously serving your community. Whether you are a business owner, community volunteer, physician, construction worker, attorney, government employee, salesperson, etc., if you want to improve yourself and your community, SLA is for you.

**Requirements:** You are required to complete the application in its entirety. Each application will be reviewed and evaluated by members of the SLA Board of Directors. Those selected will have one week after being notified of their selection to provide a non-refundable \$100.00 payment to SLA. If payment is not received within one week, the invitation to participate automatically expires. **Submission of an application does not guarantee admission to SLA due to various reasons; limited class size and diversity are two of the main limiting factors.** Diversity refers to ensuring that the class is not dominated by participants from a single part of the community.

**Deadline for Submission:** The deadline is May 16, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

## *WHAT ARE THE LONG TERMS GOALS OF SLA?*

SLA will be Shawnee County's single most unique opportunity for emerging and existing minority leaders to build, collaborate, and steward a vibrant, interconnected community, while simultaneously preparing them for positions of leadership at the local, state and federal levels. SLA will establish itself as the key training platform for those minority leaders who will be serving in positions of leadership and influence throughout the State of Kansas. This goal is easily achievable because this is the only program in the county that identifies, educates and prepares minority leaders to assume positions of influence and leadership at the highest levels.

Each year, the Board of Directors will initiate a competitive application process, affording approximately 20 individuals to participate in this rare opportunity to enhance their skillset and improve our community. These individuals will not only participate in the annual training event, but they will also assume roles in the community as members of the Strategic Leadership Academy Alumni Association. Participation in the alumni association will afford the membership an opportunity to build upon what they have learned in the training environment. They will become an inherent part of not just Shawnee's County minority leadership, but our general community leadership because of their qualifications and proven experience. SLA will independently and cooperatively initiate and/or host relevant activities in the Shawnee County community.

The lack of minority leadership at the city, county, state and corporate levels serves as evidence of the need for SLA in Shawnee County. This opportunity is for those who desire a richer connection to our community and who believe leadership training is an investment worth making in their civic and professional careers. Therefore, our goals are simple; SLA will; 1) **ENSURE** there is a trained pool of qualified minority leaders available to positively take advantage of political, corporate and non-profit opportunities when presented; 2) **CULTIVATE AND NUTURE** new leaders to tackle tough community challenges in an informed and responsible manner; 3) **EDUCATE** and engage with the citizenry to ensure community concerns are addressed in a timely and appropriate manner; and 4) **BE A VOICE** for those who do not have a voice in the community board rooms and institutions of power; and 5) **PARTNER** with community leaders and organizations in a collaborative and civil manner on behalf of those we represent.

# APPLICATION PROCESS & INSTRUCTIONS

The application process is fairly simple, but must be followed without exception. The process includes the following steps:

- Do not provide any sensitive, confidential or otherwise classified information.
- Completion of each section in full and submitted by the established deadline.
- Type or print legibly (The Board must be able to read your application; illegible applications will not be considered).
- Do not include information that is not requested, limit your responses to the posed questions or inquiries. Information that is not requested will not be considered during the evaluation process.
- Provide a one-page letter of recommendation from a community, government, non-profit or corporate leader. The person providing the reference letter must not be related to the applicant by birth or marriage.
- If selected, provide tuition of \$100.00 within one week of being notified of selection.
- Provide 2 copies of completed application, if submitted by mailed. Otherwise you may submit one completed application electronically. Submissions can be sent via email to **caindavis03@yahoo.com** or mailed to:

***Strategic Leadership Academy***  
P.O. Box 4322  
Topeka, KS 66604

- Application to SLA is limited to individuals residing in Shawnee County.
- Applicant must be an African-American, Asian, Latino or other minority of color.
- Class size will be limited to 20 participants.
- Class participants are chosen by a selection committee based upon the information completed on the application. Submission of false information disqualifies applicant for participation in SLA.
- Applicants may be contacted for a personal interview, based solely at the discretion of the selection committee.
- Additional criteria include, but is not limited to, participants demonstrating the following:
  - Commitment and motivation to serve Shawnee County and the region in a volunteer capacity
  - Leadership experience in employment and/or volunteer community organizations
  - Ability to make the time commitment required by the program
  - Previous volunteer experience
  - Unique experiences and/or expertise relevant to the mission of SLA

# SLA APPLICATION

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Male/Female \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Race/Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a registered voter: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Are you currently employed in the Greater Shawnee County region? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Are you self-employed? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

How long (years/months) have you been a resident of Shawnee County? \_\_\_\_\_

Current Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

How long (years/months) have you been in your current position: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's name and telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your current roles and responsibilities in this position:

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**List last three employers in reverse chronological order:**

<b>EMPLOYER</b>	<b>JOB TITLE</b>	<b>DATES OF EMPLOYMENT</b>

Highest level of education completed and dates:

\_\_\_ High School/Diploma

\_\_\_ Professional/Technical Certification

\_\_\_ Some College

\_\_\_ 4-Year Degree

\_\_\_ Graduate or Professional School

Name of last Institution of attendance/graduation and dates of attendance:

What do you consider your highest career achievement to date? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you or do you currently serve in any branch of the U.S. military? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

If yes, please list the highest rank obtained during your service: \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours do you normally commit to volunteerism per month? \_\_\_\_\_

List any significant community, civic, religious, political, social, athletic or other area(s) in which you are presently involved or participated in the past. Please include dates.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	RESPONSIBILITY	DATES OF MEMBERSHIP

What is the most significant lesson you have learned as a result of your community/volunteer experiences?

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What types of volunteer activities do you plan to pursue in the future?

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If you have not had the time or interest to become actively involved in the past, what conditions have changed that would enable you to participate in your community as a volunteer?

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What are your hobbies and interests?

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Why do you think you should be selected for SLA program?

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What specific skills/knowledge do you hope to gain from your participation in SLA program?

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If called upon, what specific expertise/knowledge do you possess that you would be willing to immediately contribute to enhance SLA in this community?

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Briefly describe leadership roles you have held, whether volunteer or professional, and how they have shaped you as a leader today.

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What do you feel are the three most significant issues facing Shawnee County Minority Community today?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What do you believe is a potential solution to one of the above identified issues?

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Provide a reflective paragraph describing one of your weaknesses as it relates to you as a leader.

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**PERSONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Please list two individuals who are knowledgeable about your leadership performance and/or potential. You may submit **ONE** letter of recommendation from one of these individuals.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tele:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Tele:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_



Applications must be received on or before May 16, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Applications received after this date will not be eligible for participation in Class III of Strategic Leadership Academy. If selected, a full and non-refundable tuition is due within seven days after you receive notification of your acceptance. The cost for this level of leadership training is normally several thousand dollars; therefore, there will be no scholarship opportunities or tuition waivers granted under any circumstances.

To graduate from the Strategic Leadership Academy program, participants are expected to attend all sessions and demonstrate reasonable progress by participating in the Strategic Leadership Academy Police Community Relations project. Participants should notify the Board of Directors immediately if unable to attend a session. Participants will not graduate if they miss more than one class and will not receive any refund, regardless of when they are dismissed from the program.

Class III of the Strategic Leadership Academy consists of the following schedule on the next page. Participants will meet from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on a Saturday once a month for most sessions. Changes to the schedule may occur, based on input from the class participants to accommodate unique and advantageous opportunities. **Please do not apply if these dates and times present an attendance challenge for you because there are no exceptions for attendance. You can't lead if you are not present.**

Each Session consists of a keynote speaker, leadership training, discussion of a current event, etc. The meeting dates for Class III are:

June 20, 2020	July 18, 2020	August 22, 2020	September 19, 2020
October 24, 2020	November 21, 2020	December 12, 2020	January 23, 2021
February 20, 2021	March 20, 2021		

I understand the requirements of the Strategic Leadership Academy program and if selected I will devote the time necessary to complete the program and become an active member of the Strategic Leadership Academy Alumni Association upon graduation. I also understand that I may be required to complete alternative assignments for any missed program time. I understand that if I miss more than one session, I will be dismissed from the program.

Furthermore, Strategic Leadership Academy shall not be responsible or liable to me for any claim I might make based on my application, participation or dismissal due to my failure to comply with program requirements.

Applicant Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Person who referred you to SLA: \_\_\_\_\_

**For More information contact:** Cain Davis at 352.871.4555 or caindavis03@yahoo.com