



Programs

We bring leadership education to your area, nurturing emerging or existing leaders with information, skills and networks that support leadership.

We consult with local leaders who want to engage the community as they solve problems and make decisions.

We carry out research and analysis with and for your community, helping you examine the civic and social strengths and opportunities of your area.

Community Initiatives

Leadership and civic engagement happen in the context of communities where Minnesotans live and are informed by the goals and needs of the people who live there. Extension programming can work to help community residents act knowledgeably, and act together to create the future they choose for their community.

Preparing Minnesota to lead

Leadership Education Cohorts

In long-term cohort groups or training sessions, Leadership and Civic Engagement educators help emerging and existing leaders grow skills, confidence and willingness to lead. Sponsors or steering committees help educators shape programs that address local concerns and integrate leadership education content such as:

- Defining Strategic Direction
- Valuing Diversity
- Ethical leadership
- Motivating Others
- Effective Communication
- Group Dynamics
- Mapping the Environment
- Transforming Yourself and Others
- Questioning Skills
- Decision-making Skills
- Personal Visioning
- Positive Psychology
- Leadership and Followership

“The program brought out how important it is to work together... and how important each and every person is to the improvement of our community.” — AN EMERGING LEADER

Helping communities come together

Civic Engagement Offerings

Because decisions affect community members, better decisions are made when those affected by decisions are engaged. But collecting input is difficult. It often happens in the middle of conflict, and often brings together only those with extreme opinions. Extension’s ResourceFull™ decisions civic engagement model is helping public leaders consider proactive ways to engage the public in decisions that affect the entire community. The model is brought to communities when Extension trains local leaders, consults with them to develop strategies to engage the public in particular public policy options, or design cohort group programs that explore civic engagement.

Bridging Programs

Bridging Programs bring people from communities throughout a county or region together to learn about leadership and civic engagement, and to consider how their communities can be better together. Participants engage in programs over many months, while community forums give the broader community a chance to examine local issues.

Facilitation Training

Effective facilitation of meetings where decisions are made is key to successful leadership and civic engagement. Positive and fair deliberation, even in the midst of potential conflict, helps to bring about changes and decisions communities need to move forward. Through cohort programming, training sessions, and published materials, our educators share their rich knowledge so that organizations and individuals can use skilled facilitation tools in their community work.

Social Capital Education & Assessment

Social capital – the bonds, bridges and links that residents of a community hold – can be leveraged to make a community more vital. Workshops about social capital help communities understand the importance of, and think about ways to, strengthen social capital in their community. Social capital assessments are a way for community volunteers to examine the strengths and weaknesses of bonds, bridges and links among community members.

Visit our website:

www.extension.umn.edu/community

Want to develop a leadership or civic engagement education cohort for your community? Our educators help communities design programs that make sense for your community. Call an educator listed in this brochure.

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PUBLICATIONS

These Extension publications support communities as they work for their future. To order, visit shop.extension.umn.edu

Building Leadership Program Management Guide
Committees That Work - Common Traps, Creative Solutions

Facilitation Resources

Weaving Tourism into Communities: Four Stories over Time

Read and subscribe to *Vital Connections*, a newsletter to help community leaders and engaged community members know, decide and act. Visit at www.extension.umn.edu/community/news

LOCAL CONTACTS

Educators and specialists are ready to help your community create its future.

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Extension Center for Community Vitality makes a difference by engaging Minnesotans to strengthen the social, civic, economic and technological capacity of their communities.

Learn more at:
www.extension.umn.edu/community

Here's what you'll find on our website:

- Deeper descriptions of the programs highlighted here
- Bios of our educators
- Curriculum materials for purchase from the Extension store
- Feature articles and fact sheets of interest to community leaders
- Video stories of successful communities
- Information about programs that help local leaders strengthen their economy
- Research about "the brain gain in rural Minnesota," the tourism economy, business expansion and more

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Leadership and Civic Engagement

Helping communities choose their future



YOUR COMMUNITY...
YOUR FUTURE...
YOUR CHOICE

THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY VITALITY

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION