

The Leader in Me™

The Leader in Me is not just another program that schools are being asked to implement. Rather, it is a process of growing leaders. The Leader in Me model recognizes that all children have the potential to lead.

With an integrated approach to teaching leadership using Dr. Stephen Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, The Leader in Me uses the 7 Habits throughout its model—incorporating the language and concepts into everyday life. Using this model allows all involved to “put first things first,” “be proactive” and “think win-win.”

Results for the Future

As they familiarize themselves with the 7 Habits, students will carry those principles from their classrooms to their homes, giving their families an opportunity to learn the 7 Habits as well. Parents and guardians will then apply the 7 Habits in their lives, including their workplaces. In short, the 7 Habits become a part of the community, not just part of the schools. Once students have completed school, they will carry the principles into their post-secondary educations and into the workplace. Business leaders will see

- An increase in the quality of the available workforce because of higher graduation rates and improved soft skill development (work ethic, leadership, communication, goal setting, etc.)
- Expanded and new business opportunities in the region as The Leader in Me becomes an important asset to economic development expansion, retention and attraction efforts because companies see the value of The Leader in Me and its impact of the future workforce.

Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber strongly believes that The Leader in Me prepares the future workforce by teaching children about leadership, accountability, teamwork and much more—all of which are integral skills for talent development. The Leader in Me will help our community differentiate itself from others as our workforce gains more skills that help companies compete in the global economy.

The Chamber is collaborating with the Bowling Green Independent Schools, the Warren County Public Schools and the FranklinCovey® organization to implement The Leader in Me in our schools.

As the implementation grows, so does the need for funding. The Chamber is in the beginning phases of a capital campaign to fund The Leader in Me. With the goal of raising \$1.6 million, this capital campaign will fund the initial implementation in the districts' existing schools. The capital campaign will then raise an additional \$1.4 million that will fund an endowment that can fund new schools as they are built in either district. **Using the campaign funds, Bowling Green-Warren County will become the first community in the nation to have implemented The Leader in Me in all schools and in all grades K-12.**

By supporting The Leader in Me, the Chamber demonstrates our commitment to the local community. The Leader in Me will teach children to be effective leaders, grow the capacity of our workforce and differentiate us from the ever-increasingly competitive landscape for business, jobs and economic growth.

“The Chamber is here to develop our economic health. And a big part of our ability to do that is tied to our workforce. And so to the extent that we're able to participate in programs like this, then we're investing in our future. We're investing in our workforce. In 13 years, from the time a child enters elementary school to the time they graduate high school, we can transform our workforce, our school systems and our community.”

~ John Mark Fones, Senior VP/Center Care
Commonwealth Health Corporation



The Leader in Me™

Bowling Green Independent Schools

“The implementation of “The Leader in Me” supports the Goals and Expectations adopted by the school district in 2008. One of those goals is Teaching 21st Century Skills with accompanying expectations that students will develop global awareness, innovation, critical thinking skills, communication skills, collaboration skills and technology skills. ~ Joe Tinius, superintendent of Bowling Green Independent Schools

Several years ago, the Bowling Green Independent Schools developed a list of goals and expectations for faculty and staff as part of the district’s mission of teaching 21st Century skills to students. The Leader in Me aligns itself with these goals and expectations, and the 7 Habits are greatly a part of those 21st Century skills.

As of spring 2012, all five Bowling Green elementary schools and Bowling Green Junior High have started implementing The Leader in Me. Each school takes a different approach to this implementation, tailoring The Leader in Me to fit the needs of students, faculty and staff.

Warren County Public Schools

“The program will enable our students, beginning at the earliest levels of education, make the connection between learning at school and its application to a successful home life, a successful career and the importance of being part of a community. ~ Dr. Tim Murley, superintendent of Warren County Public Schools

The Leader in Me is one of the engines that drive the students in Warren County Public Schools to a different level of learning and understanding. The school district knows that the results of implementation set its schools, the community and families apart from others anywhere. The program is helping the district’s students, beginning at the earliest levels of education, make the connection between learning at school and its application to a successful career and the importance of being a part of a community.

As of spring 2012, eight Warren County elementary schools have started implementing The Leader in Me, and the additional six schools—including the new Jody Richards Elementary School—are planning implementation for fall 2012. South Warren Middle School and Warren East Middle School are implementing it in their Leadership Classes.

What are the results of The Leader in Me?

Nearly 700 schools worldwide are implementing The Leader in Me. These schools are consistently reporting

- Increases in students’ self-confidence, teamwork, initiative, responsibility, creativity, self-direction, leadership, problem-solving, communication, diversity awareness and academic performance
- Improved school culture
- Higher test scores
- Dramatic decreases in disciplinary issues
- Increased teacher pride and engagement
- Greater parent satisfaction and involvement

“If my sister and I have a disagreement, I really try to use Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood to listen to her feelings and her perspective of the situation and then list mine, and then we synergize.”

~ Megan Sherrill, fifth-grade student at W.R. McNeill Elementary School



The Leader in Me™

The Capital Campaign

The Leader in Me Capital Campaign will greatly impact our children's lives and the future of our schools, our workforce and our community. In order to accomplish this, the campaign must meet its goal of raising \$3 million to implement and sustain The Leader in Me, benefiting 18,000 students in 36 schools in the Bowling Green Independent Schools and the Warren County Public Schools. These funds will be used for staff training, materials and programming, but ultimately the dollars invested in the campaign will benefit students and classrooms. To do so, the campaign leaders have identified that The Leader in Me can be implemented for \$167 per student and \$3,000 per classroom, a relatively modest investment for our future.

Campaign Leadership

Ann Puckett and Rick Wilson are the general campaign chairs and are charged with the overall progression of the campaign. Other campaign volunteer leaders are

Leadership Division

Dion Houchins
Bill Borders

Advance Division

Joy Rogers
Tom Pennington

Heritage Division

Alex Nottmeier, CCIM, SIOR
Regina Webb

Scholar Division

Bill Greer
Steve Davis

Foundation Division

Mike Harris
Joe Natcher

Investment Committee

G. Michael Murphy

Marketing & Communications Committee

Tim Earnhart

The campaign staff members are Chamber President & CEO Ron Bunch, CEcD and Chamber Vice President, Operations Tonya Matthews, IOM, ACE, CCE.

The Bowling Green Area Chamber Foundation

The Advisory Board for The Leader in Me Capital Campaign is a sub-group of the Bowling Green Area Chamber Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization overseen by a board of directors. The Advisory Board distributes the investments from the Capital Campaign. The members of the Advisory Board are

Bowling Green Independent Schools

Joe Tinius
Vicki Writsel

Warren County Public Schools

Tim Murley
Kathy Goff

Chamber Appointees

Dr. Paul Cook
Dr. Eli Jackson, III, DMD
Mark O. Iverson
Anderson Hosteteler

Chamber Board of Directors Representative

John Mark Fones
High School Ex-Officios
TBD
TBD

All Capital Campaign investments are directed to the Foundation, and investors are provided with the following information: Your gift may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal income tax purposes. Please consult with your tax advisor or the IRS.



The Leader in Me™

Investors will be given a receipt letter stating: Please accept this as a receipt for you gift. For tax purposes, your total contribution of <amount> qualifies as a charitable contribution. You were provided with no goods or services in consideration of this contribution.



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Become Involved

There are several ways to support The Leader in Me Capital Campaign. Contact the Chamber at 270-781-3200 to make your involvement commitment today.

- Make a financial investment.
- Volunteer to be a part of the capital campaign fundraising efforts.
- Become a member of the Legacy Council.
 - The Legacy Council consists of individuals who have agreed to publicly document that they believe The Leader in Me is a worthwhile, viable program that is a quality investment of time, resources and funds.
 - Currently, there are 161 members of the Legacy Council. To become a member of the Legacy Council, contact Receptionist/Administrative Assistant Brooke Canary: 270-781-3200 or brooke@bgchamber.com.
- Submit a fundraising idea.
- Connect us with someone you know who would be interested in volunteering and/or investing.

“The Leader in Me process will help our students develop important 21st century skills such as respect, responsibility, time management, self-discipline, self-confidence and communication skills that they need to succeed in school and in their future careers.”

~Matt Thornhill, principal at William Natcher Elementary School

Learn More

More information about the Chamber’s work on the capital campaign and with The Leader in Me can be found online at http://www.bgchamber.com/about_your_chamber/The_Leader_in_Me/.

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