

ANNUAL REPORT





A MESSAGE FROM **LEADERSHIP GWINNETT**

a year of unprecedented angst and hope

The COVID-19 crisis is fading into the rear-view mirror. But, the pandemic impacted every aspect of our lives from 2020 – 2022. The time between the height of the crisis and now gives us space to process and a unique perspective, enabling a transition from angst to hope. As leaders during this time, survival skills included agility, creativity, and flexibility. Ultimately, outright perseverance and the ability to see the silver lining in the face of unprecedented challenges prevailed and led to hopefulness of accelerated leadership development and emerging leaders stepping up to new challenges.

For Leadership Gwinnett, it meant regaining its footing after an historic decision to defer the Class of 2020-2021 for one year. After the year-long delay, the renamed Class of 2022 kicked off their experience with an in-person retreat in October 2021 and finished their year with graduation in May 2022. This group is affectionately known as "the longest class ever" and their commitment to our community is doubly strong.

Interest in Leadership Gwinnett's 9-month program remains competitive. To better serve our growing community and increase impact, the Leadership Gwinnett Foundation Board approved a class size increase from 42 to 48. Attendance for Glance Gwinnett, the 2.5-day short program, rebounded with record-breaking attendance of 45 and 42 in fall 2021 and spring 2022, respectively.

To support program development for the Leadership Gwinnett Alumni Network, a survey was released to understand post-graduate interests. The following priorities emerged as most important to our graduates: (1) community exploration and knowledge building through behind-the-scenes tours; (2) crucial conversations about critical community needs along with ways to engage alumni in promising solutions; (3) professional leadership development offerings to help alumni and their organizations navigate unprecedented times; and (4) parties, keep the parties!

We continued offering block-buster Behind-the-Scenes Tours to educate alumni on unique offerings in our community. To help alumni navigate personal and professional leadership challenges, we delivered "Leadership: When Everyone Is a Leader." Attendees rated this program all 5s and reported learning a great deal about post-pandemic workforce trends. In response to alumni input, we designed and launched a brand-new program named Spotlight Gwinnett to facilitate crucial conversations about critical community needs. Over 90 leaders gathered to learn about the complex challenges of housing insecurity and homelessness. We also hosted a welcome back reception for Dr. Calvin Watts (LG07) who returned to Gwinnett County Public Schools to serve as Superintendent. Over 100 alumni attended the meet-and-greet event and offered him their heartfelt support. Finally, we are grateful for the 279 graduates who supported the Alumni Network through membership. These contributions enabled high-quality alumni programming.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, staff wrapped up a three-year project by fully implementing EOS® – the Entrepreneurial Operating System – as its nonprofit business model. This new operating model is keeping us laser-focused on people, processes, and purpose, and is helping us achieve our long-range goals.

Like most organizations, we are leading during a time when operational costs have skyrocketed and investment dollars have been hit hard by market volatility. Tuition alone does not cover program costs, and we remain indebted to our Presenting and Sustaining Partners and program sponsors who provide invaluable financial support. Alumni are also essential supporters of Leadership Gwinnett's continued success. The Class of 2022 raised \$12,825 for the annual scholarship campaign, and our amazing alumni volunteers provided immeasurable support by serving on planning day committees and other resourceful endeavors. In fact, our very own retreat committee co-chairs Kristina Hammer Blum and Jody Campbell doubled down on their creative ingenuity with their 2nd annual production, Leadership Gwinnett: A Musical. This original production was written and performed by this entertaining duo and alumni guest performers in March 2022, and the event raised \$5,000.

In our 37th year, the state of Leadership Gwinnett and its network is strong. More than 2,100 alumni are stepping up to face today's challenges. They are an inclusive network of empowered leaders that serve in every sector and at every level. Most importantly, they are the Gwinnett Glue® that holds our community together.



Kurú Byrd - Liwis
Renée Byrd-Lewis
Chairman
Foundation Board of Directors



Lisa Zaken
President & CEO
Leadership Gwinnett

TOGETHER we can do so much

Leadership Gwinnett is an award-winning resource for individuals and organizations who strive to go beyond being individually successful to being truly significant. We are Gwinnett's hub for leadership development, relationship building, and community engagement. Our innovative, world-class curriculum and experiential learning opportunities are available for all levels of leadership. We aim to be the place where leaders can connect with diverse networks, build understanding, and take action to drive positive social and professional impact.

It is our mission to educate, equip, and engage diverse leaders and inspire civic involvement.

We achieve our mission through inspirational programming including the signature ninemonth Leadership Gwinnett cohort, Glance Gwinnett, a two-and-a-half-day snapshot event, and a robust Alumni network.



Leadership Gwinnett

For nine months, a competitively selected class of 42 community leaders gain a true understanding of the people and issues shaping Gwinnett's future. More importantly, they learn how they can impact those issues.



Glance Gwinnett

This 2.5-day program provides an exclusive look at Gwinnett County. Designed to inspire participants through hands-on learning, Glance Gwinnett reveals new opportunities, ideas, and perspectives from a diverse group of local leaders.



The Alumni Network

The Leadership Gwinnett experience does not end after graduating one of our programs. Program graduates can join our Alumni Network to continue their leadership journey, stay engaged, and connect with our 2,100+ graduates.



If not you then WHO?

"I am now surrounded by dedicated icons and committed community leaders. Each class member brings a unique skillset to the table and together we can find solutions, influence change and help each other. We spent almost a year together in intense situations, like learning days and study groups. I've gained 41 new friends and they helped me become a better leader."



Melissa LG22



Shamarlas GG22

"Glance provides you with resources that you were completely unaware of within your community. It taught me how to be a part of my community, not just socially, but how to actually help improve it. It connects you with individuals whom you can just pick up the phone call if you have a question. It creates an invaluable network, which was priceless for me."

"LG holds a light up to the importance of community engagement. We get so busy with our lives that we can forget our community needs us. This program brings individuals together to learn about Gwinnett from the people before us and the ones who are currently doing the work, all with the intentions of making Gwinnett a better place for generations to come."



Lindsay LG22



Marcus GG22

"It really is a "glance" at Gwinnett! I like to think of this program as a host that ushers you into our county. You get a chance to look at the many services, operations, nonprofits, businesses, the issues, the positives, the opportunities. You're encouraged to really think through the gaps in our society. At the end of the program, you're called to take what you've learned and jump in, as an activated community leader."

"LG is an immersive educational experience where leaders are teaching leaders what makes Gwinnett tick and why it's so important to be involved. I had no idea how much impact a small group of leaders could have on this giant county of almost a million people. LG provides linkages between people, organizations, and goals with that idea that we're building this community together for the betterment of all citizens.



Tawny LG22



Minho GG21

"I cannot say enough about how great Glance Gwinnett is. It makes me proud to be a Gwinnett resident. I was inspired by everyone I met, including my classmates and the presenters. I want to be more involved and be a connector between the Korean Community and Gwinnett County."

"Wow! The intentionality of this program to help members understand how Gwinnett works, not only just within the County but also Metro Atlanta and state. It gave us a great foundational and advanced knowledge of how things run here in Gwinnett County. I feel empowered and equipped to now make a difference in my community if something needs to change."



Markell LG22



Jennifer GG22

"I've lived in Gwinnett my whole life and thought I knew everything about this county. I was blown away by the amount of information that we received from multiple speakers on many different topics. The amount of people from different backgrounds, industries, walks of life that I formed a relationship with was amazing. Our paths would not have crossed if it weren't for this program. I'm going to miss this experience!"



Your gifts MATTER

We are grateful for the commitment and ongoing support of our sustaining partners, donors, and volunteers whose generosity enables us to fulfill our mission and serve the community.

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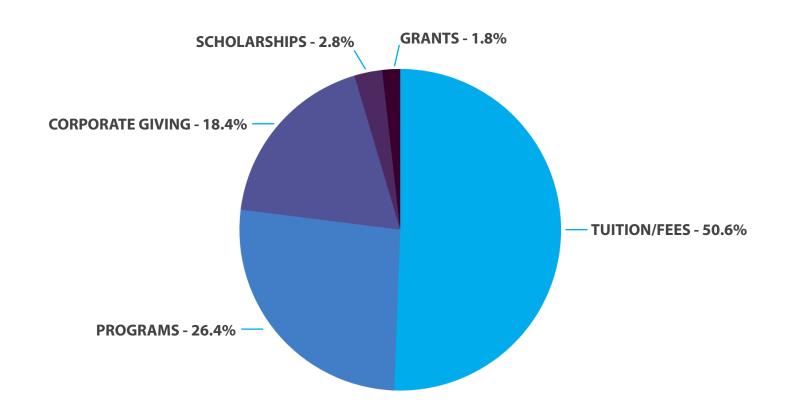






For Partnership information or to donate, scan the QR code or visit www.leadershipgwinnett.com/support-our-mission. View the breakdown of our revenue and support below.

Leadership Gwinnett Foundation, Inc. TIN: 26-1522249 501 (c) (3)



ALUMNI NETWORK MEMBERS

Completing one of our programs is just the beginning; staying connected through membership is the next chapter. **THANK YOU** to our 2021-22 members for reinvesting in their leadership journey and demonstrating pride in affiliation with Leadership Gwinnett.

LIFETIME- \$3,000

Srinivas Jalla Scott Jordan **Andrew Pourchier** Russell Smith Jeb Stewart Alisa Toney Louis Young, Jr.

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OUT-OF-AREA - \$50

Cathie Brazell Lori Buckheister Philip Hoskins Pat Mitchell **Brett West** Connie Wiggins



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Larry Pettiford

Cole Porter

AnneMarie Scully

Jaletta Smith

Trent Spake

Brandon Thomas

Aysha Treadwell

Tawny Waltz

Lindsay Woon Ferreira



Glance Gwinnett NOVEMBER 2021

Autumn Andrews
Theresa Bailey
Avery Baker
Katie Bateman
Daniel Beaver
Laura Calkins
Jennifer Chambers
Minho Chung

Miranda Dansby Huckleberry McKenzie Davies Jose DeJesus Amanda Gilbert Todd Hardigree AnnMarie Hasty

Sheila Crumrine

Charles Hawk
Derek Higgs
Roxy Hurlburt
Andre Johnson
Angela Jugenheimer
David Jugenheimer
Charlie Langley
Micah Ledford

Jamie Lee
Stacy Lord
Elizabeth Lyons
Melinda Mitchell
Billqeece Naqawe
Eric Naughton
Ginger Ragsdale
Barber

Kaitlyn Redish
Tyler Renje
Daniel Summers, Jr.
Rebecca Robbins
China Thomas
Paul Ryerson
Nicole Tomlinson
Sydney Sattler
Kelly Tumbleston
Carly Scholz
Barbara Wood
Sydney Smith
Lecia Young
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Glance Gwinnett APRIL 2022

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Edgardo Aponte
Gabriela Barrueta
Dwayne Black
Lisa Boylan
Jennifer Bridwell
Randy Brunson
Doug Callahan

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