STANLEY K. LACY
EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP SERIES®

What is SKL?

Generously funded by The Lacy Foundation, the Stanley K. Lacy Executive Leadership Series® (SKL®) is a 10-month program designed to help emerging community leaders become more informed about the issues facing Central Indiana, more motivated to get involved in addressing those issues, and more connected to other leaders in service to our community.

Each year twenty-five emerging leaders between the ages of 25 and 45 are selected to participate in the SKL Series. SKL strives to choose a group that is diverse in terms of gender, racial, cultural, and professional background. Every year a new moderator is also selected. The moderator is an established community leader who identifies a theme for the class year and guides monthly class discussions. Each class day focuses on a particular topic such as education, economic development, art & culture, public safety, among others.

SKL is designed for emerging leaders who are already on a path of community leaders, not those just beginning their community leadership journey. SKL is also not a skill development program, but rather an education on community issues. For those looking to begin their community leadership efforts or those looking for skills-based programming, we recommend exploring other programs offered by Leadership Indianapolis that can better fit those needs.

What are the eligibility requirements for SKL Class L?

An applicant should

- Be between the ages of 25 and 45 on the date applications are due.
- Have both a demonstrated interest in community issues and a record of leadership in significant voluntary community activities.
- Occupy a position of leadership reflecting significant achievement relative to age and providing the opportunity to have significant influence on issues facing our community.
- Have lived in the Greater Indianapolis/Central Indiana area for at least three years and have a likelihood of staying in the area for the foreseeable future.
- Be able to commit to the attendance and time requirements.

When is the SKL Class L application due?

Completed applications may be hand-delivered or mailed. Hand-delivered applications must be delivered on or before 4PM on Thursday, April 30. Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before Thursday, April 30. Late applications will not be accepted.

Mail or hand-deliver applications to:
Rebecca Hutton
Stanley K. Lacy Executive Leadership Series
Leadership Indianapolis
615 N. Alabama Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Will I receive confirmation that my application has been received?
Applicants will receive email notification by early June confirming their application has been received.

When will I be notified of the selection committee's decision?
Applicants will be notified in late July as to whether they have been selected to participate in SKL Class L.

What are the key dates for SKL Class XLIX?
April 30, 2026 – Applications are due
Late July – Applicants are notified about their acceptance status
Early August – Class and Moderator are announced
September – Class year begins with orientation and a two-day, out-of-town opening retreat
October – May – Class meets once a month for a full-day session
June – Class year ends with a two-day, out-of-town closing retreat

Who is the Moderator for SKL Class L?
The Moderator for SKL Class L will be announced in early August, along with the class members.

Who serves on the selection committee?
The selection committee is made up of community members familiar with the SKL Series and remains anonymous. The committee is made up of different people each year.

How are class members selected for SKL?
SKL applications are reviewed by an anonymous selection committee. The committee reviews applications in two rounds. The first round is a blind process, whereby all identifying information (name, employer, etc.) is removed from each application. After review, a small number of applicants advance to the next round, at which point the selection committee selects class members. The selection committee strives to create a class that is diverse in terms of gender, racial, cultural, and professional background. Usually only one representative of a company or organization is selected to participate in the class annually.

Selection to the SKL Series is highly competitive. Approximately one out of every 3-4 applicants is accepted and it is not uncommon for individuals to apply multiple times before being selected to the program.

What are the attendance requirements for SKL?

Class members are required to attend the orientation, opening retreat, and closing retreat in full and may miss no more than one of the monthly class days. Class members are required to arrive on time and to stay until sessions adjourn. Failure to meet these requirements will jeopardize the class member's graduation and alumni status.

Time outside of the class days is necessary including class day preparation, small group work, and optional social time. Time outside of class can range from five to fifteen hours per month.

How much is the tuition for SKL?

Thanks to the generous support of The Lacy Foundation, the SKL Series is a fraction of the cost of similar programs in other cities. Tuition for SKL is $1,200 and may be paid by the class member, their employer, or a sponsor supporting the class member. Scholarships are available for qualified applicants. Payment is made upon selection into the program.

Who is Stanley K. Lacy?

A banker and vigorous participant in civic projects, Stanley K. Lacy had established himself as a recognized community leader in Indianapolis by his mid-20s. In 1973, Mr. Lacy's life was tragically cut short by an automobile accident.

That same year his mother, Edna Balz Lacy, established a foundation in his memory. In 1976, she worked with the Indy Chamber to establish the program known today as the Stanley K. Lacy Executive Leadership Series®. From 1976 to 2013, the Indy Chamber administered the program and was a terrific partner for the first 37 years of the program.

In 2013, the Stanley K. Lacy Executive Leadership Series program became part of Leadership Indianapolis. Funds from The Lacy Foundation are channeled through Leadership Indianapolis to underwrite the SKL® series.

Who do I contact if I have additional questions about SKL?

Please direct all questions about the SKL Series, application, and selection process to Rebecca Hutton, SKL Program Director at Leadership Indianapolis,
at rhutton@leadershipindianapolis.com.