



greater
MANKATO *this month*
growth

Our Talent. Our Future.

For businesses today looking at where to locate or grow, the availability of talent is a major influencer. That's why, urged on by our business community, Greater Mankato Growth has dedicated significant resources toward talent development and retention.

It's never too early to start nurturing this important community asset. GMG's efforts start at the middle and high school level, through a partnership with Mankato Area Public Schools (MAPS) that provides opportunities for students to explore career options and develop work readiness skills. In 2010, GMG awarded a planning grant to MAPS to take this program to the next level in the 2011-12 school year.

After high school comes higher education, and Greater Mankato is fortunate to have five higher education institutions. Through events like the Campus & Community Fair and programs like the Greater Mankato Leaders of Tomorrow, college students have the chance to engage directly with business professionals in our community.

Embracing young professionals in our community is another focus of GMG. A few years ago, GMG, along with a dedicated group of professionals in the early stages of their careers, created the Greater Mankato Young Professionals program to provide opportunities for learning, socializing and community service among professionals age 21 – 39. By engaging with one another, young professionals create lasting ties in our community, so they want to make it a long term home.

Another program offered by GMG that creates community ties for professionals of all



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ages is the Greater Mankato Leadership Institute. This program has provided professional development with a community focus to more than 700 community leaders over the past 26 years.

In addition, GMG gathers the community's leaders every few years to engage with one another and study best practices from other communities through the Greater Mankato Leadership Delegation's Inter-City Leadership Visits (ICLV). These visits also enable community members to explore trends in business development important to the future of the community. Not coincidentally, one of the trends identified at the last formal ICLV trip in Fort Collins, Colorado was the impact of available talent on a community's success. This finding led GMG to hire a staff person specifically dedicated to talent development and the continuation, expansion or introduction of many of the programs identified above.

Combined, these efforts will help ensure that Greater Mankato continues to be a place talented individuals want to live, which will result in it being a place businesses want to locate and stay.

**Don't miss the opportunity to learn the leadership skills
to take your career or organization to the next level...**



greater
MANKATO
LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE

For more than 25 years the Greater Mankato Leadership Institute has provided the area's only comprehensive leadership training program with a community focus. The nine-month program consists of eleven day long sessions between September and May.

Apply Online by June 3!
greatermankato.com/gmg-leadershipinstitute.php