The application deadline for the sixth class of Leadership Nebraska is Oct. 31. The State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska program is looking for the next members for Class VI.

The program continues developing a cross-section of local leaders who will use their talents and abilities to foster a new spirit of energy, enthusiasm and vitality throughout the state.

Each year, a class of Nebraska leaders–in their 20s, 30s, 40s, and 50s–is selected to participate in the program.

The selected participants will be from different regions of the state, with varied backgrounds and diverse talents. But all must have one common characteristic: an abiding interest in Nebraska and its future.

"Leadership Nebraska is aimed at persons who have demonstrated community and professional leadership experiences.

The program will offer six one-and-a-half to two-day sessions per year that would give class members an opportunity to develop and hone leadership skills and gain a broader understanding of issues facing Nebraska," said Tom Whalen, chairman of the State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska Council.

The key to Leadership Nebraska begins with the premise that all citizens across the state have a stake in our future, and that cooperative efforts will make for a successful future.

2012 Sessions will begin with an orientation retreat at Lied Lodge in February; a session on public service in Lincoln in March; an education session in Kearney in late April; the health/healthcare/human services session in late June; the agriculture session in O'Neill in early August; and the economic development bus tour across Nebraska in September.

A commencement ceremony will be held in Lincoln in October.

Eventually, a statewide network of Leadership Nebraska alumni targets areas of involvement and actively engages in finding solutions that will enhance Nebraska's future growth and prosperity.

Alumni of the program will also conduct an ongoing series of meetings and programs to strengthen relationships developed and to maintain and enhance the knowledge gained during their leadership experience.

Candidates learn the decision of the selection committee in December, are introduced to the state at the State Chamber Annual Meeting in early February 2012. The sessions begin Feb. 8-10, 2012.

Tuition for the 2012 Class is $3,000. Meals and lodging are included, but participants are responsible for travel costs to the class site. Scholarship funds based on need are available.

A tax-deductible non-profit 501(c)(3) organization has been organized for The State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska.

For more information on any aspect of the State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska program, please contact Executive Director Don Mihovk at the State Chamber office.

Applications are available at on http://www.nechamber.net/dnn/lne/home.aspx or call the State Chamber's Leadership Nebraska office (402) 474-4422) to obtain an application through the mail.