

2025-2026

LEADERSHIP SPOKANE

Annual Report



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LEADERSHIP
SPOKANE

MISSION

We are a catalyst — educating and uniting diverse, collaborative leaders to ensure a vibrant Spokane.



OUR MISSION RESULTS:

Flagship

64

Engaged Leaders

113

Training Hours
(Per Leader)

1,012

Service Hours

Youth

31

Engaged Leaders

27.5

Training Hours
(Per Leader)

85

Service Hours

509 Focus

36

Engaged Leaders

22.5

Training Hours
(Per Leader)

LS'26 Flagship Advice

"Be ready to lean in and get to know people. These are some of the most impressive individuals I have had the privilege to get to know. I am very grateful for the opportunity to know all of these people and I think you should invest the time."

Sona Griffith, Class of 2026, Small Business Banker at U.S. Bank

COMMUNITY IMPACT



Class Support

The Class of 2026 participated in several fundraisers:

Raised funds to support a classmate who had a baby in the NICU.

Grocery store gift cards donated to the Manzanita House.

Food drive for the Fairchild Airforce Base Food Pantry.



Community Service Projects

Nonprofits impacted by Flagship Class

Embrace Washington
Northwest Autism Center
Nuestras Raices
River City Youth
Spokane Humane Society
Spokane Lilac Festival Association

10 Dollar Challenge

In September, the Class of 2026 was presented with a \$10 “pay it forward” challenge by Class of 2016 alumnus, Dirk Vastrick. Funds raised were used to support the SCC Culinary Program and Leadership Spokane Gala.



Flagship Programming

Tuition scholarship assistance totaled **\$14,500** for the Class of 2026 provided by: *Dirk Vastrick, Innovia Foundation, Rotary 21, Linda Finney Diversity Fund and Ira Amstadter.*

64 Flagship Graduates

42 Tour Opportunities
25 Weekly GOAT Gab Connections



LS'26 Flagship Advice

"Invest in being authentic and making connections – they will pay lifelong dividends. All of the tours are amazing – spend the time and prioritize finding out more about your community."

Lizzie Frank, Class of 2026, Area Vice President at Numerica Credit Union

"Don't just attend classes. Build the relationships. The classes are valuable, but the connections you make with your classmates will become one of the most meaningful and lasting parts of the Leadership Spokane experience."

Terri Crafts, Class of 2026, Chief Executive Officer at Embrace Washington

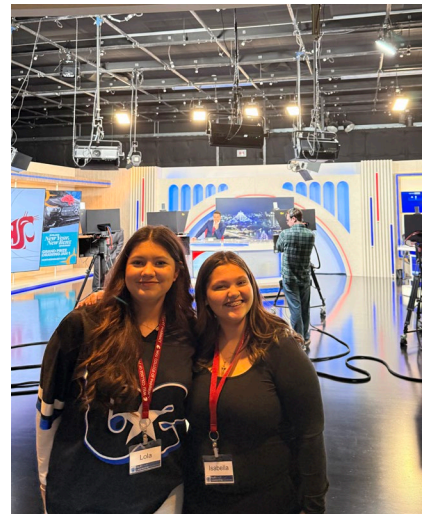
Youth Programming

31 Youth Graduates



Community Events & Organizations Youth Volunteered at:

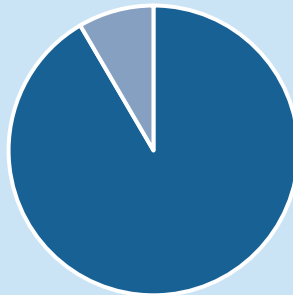
Vanessa Behan:
Santa Express
Teen & Kid Closet
Junior Bloomsday



Leadership Spokane provides accessible youth education and programming.

Tuition: \$150.00 (per student)
Annual Participant Cost: \$1,628.49

Tuition only covers 9.21% of program costs!



■ Cost of Program ■ Tuition

LS'26 Youth Highlight

"If I had to name one of the most important things we gained from this experience, I'd say exposure—exposure to places and exposure to responsibility. Exposure to the fact that leadership often looks different from what people expect. Sometimes, leadership looks like listening carefully. Sometimes it looks like solving problems no one else notices. Sometimes it looks like showing up consistently, even without applause."

Sahil Modha, Youth Class of 2026, Ridgeline High School

509 Focus Programming

509 Focus is a fast-paced 2½-day Spokane County overview. Participants gained deeper insight into Spokane while expanding their network and learning how to make a positive regional impact.

In its second year, 509 Focus expanded to two program sessions: October 2025 and April 2026.

36 - 509 Focus Graduates

42 Expert Speakers (Per Session)

3 Spokane Tours (Per Session)



509 Focus Highlights

"I loved so many parts of 509 Focus, but I would say my favorite parts were the dynamic round tables, the walking tour and the bus tour. They were very interactive and actively engaging. I think the non-profit section really inspired me to not only get involved, but gave me inspiration to get my coworkers involved as well. Awesome experience! Highly recommend. I look forward to applying for the flagship program."

Mackenzie Peppenger, October 2025 Session, Account Manager at FreeForm

"The panels were amazing and getting to meet so many important people in our community. I think maybe that was a very important piece that I enjoyed, but if I had to pick an absolute favorite, it's truly a tie between the history on day 1 and the tour of Spokesman Review on day 2 - this was partly due to the speakers being so engaging and making it so easy to take in all of the information they had to share. I could have spent an entire day each learning about them."

Savannah Kimm, April 2026 Session, Loan Operations Support at STCU

Alumni Programming

We hosted a variety of alumni programs and events, helping our 1,719 alumni further develop their community connections!

Alumni Highlights:

The Alumni Party With Purpose was held on November 13, 2025, where donations for Communities in Schools of Northeast Washington were collected. Thank you to all our alumni who attended our gala, All Class Reunion, and joined us on Regional Economy Day for our morning Scavenger Hunt and Human Needs Day for our Poverty Simulation. Stay tuned – more events to come!

The 1983 Society:

- 126 Alumni Members
- 76 Lifetime Ambassadors

Join the 1983 Society: The mission of The 1983 Society is to build and foster a legacy of Leadership in the Spokane area through GROWth opportunities. To sign up, go to www.leadershipspokane.org.

Get Involved:

- **Alumni with Class:** After every class session on the first Thursday of every month, alumni are invited to join the Flagship class for a networking happy hour!
- **Volunteer:** Mark your calendars for Regional Economy Day on October 8th, 2026, and Human Needs Day on April 1st, 2027. We will need volunteers for both days!
- **Follow us:** Stay in the know by following @LeadershipSpokane on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram!
- **Update your contact info:** Have a new job? Recently retired? Email us to let us know!
- **Save the date:** Our Leadership Lights the Way Gala is on February 6th, 2026!



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PROGRAM SPONSORS!

Program Sponsor:



Innovia Foundation - Spokane Tribe of Indians - Avista Foundation
Numerica Credit Union - The Parker Foundation - Cowles Company
Idaho Central Credit Union - Spokane Rotary 21 - Itron
Lydig - BECU - Providence Health Plan

Day Sponsor:

Gonzaga University Center for Lifelong Learning - Numerica Credit Union
Spokane International Airport - Dirk Vastrick Presents
Wagstaff, Inc. - Kalispel Tribe of Indians and Northern Quest Resort & Casino
Providence Inland Northwest Washington
CHAS - Spokane Rotary 21

LS'26 Flagship Advice

"Don't miss out. The connections and friends you will make are life altering."

Scott Buck, Class of 2026, Director-Facilities Services at Eastern Washington University



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2027

Our Goals:

- 1.) Maintain financial sustainability and resilience.
- 2.) Provide engaging, contemporary programs for Classes of 2027.
- 3.) Continue to grow 509 Focus program, participation and partnerships.
- 4.) Create meaningful and engaging alumni opportunities.
- 5.) Strengthen service initiatives and create lasting positive impact.

LS'26 Highlight

"I have gained knowledge through the Leadership Spokane experience that I plan to use in work, at home, and within my friendships."

Shelby Allison, Class of 2026, Public Arts Program Director at Spokane Arts and Adjunct Professor at Eastern Washington University



LEADERSHIP

S P O K A N E