



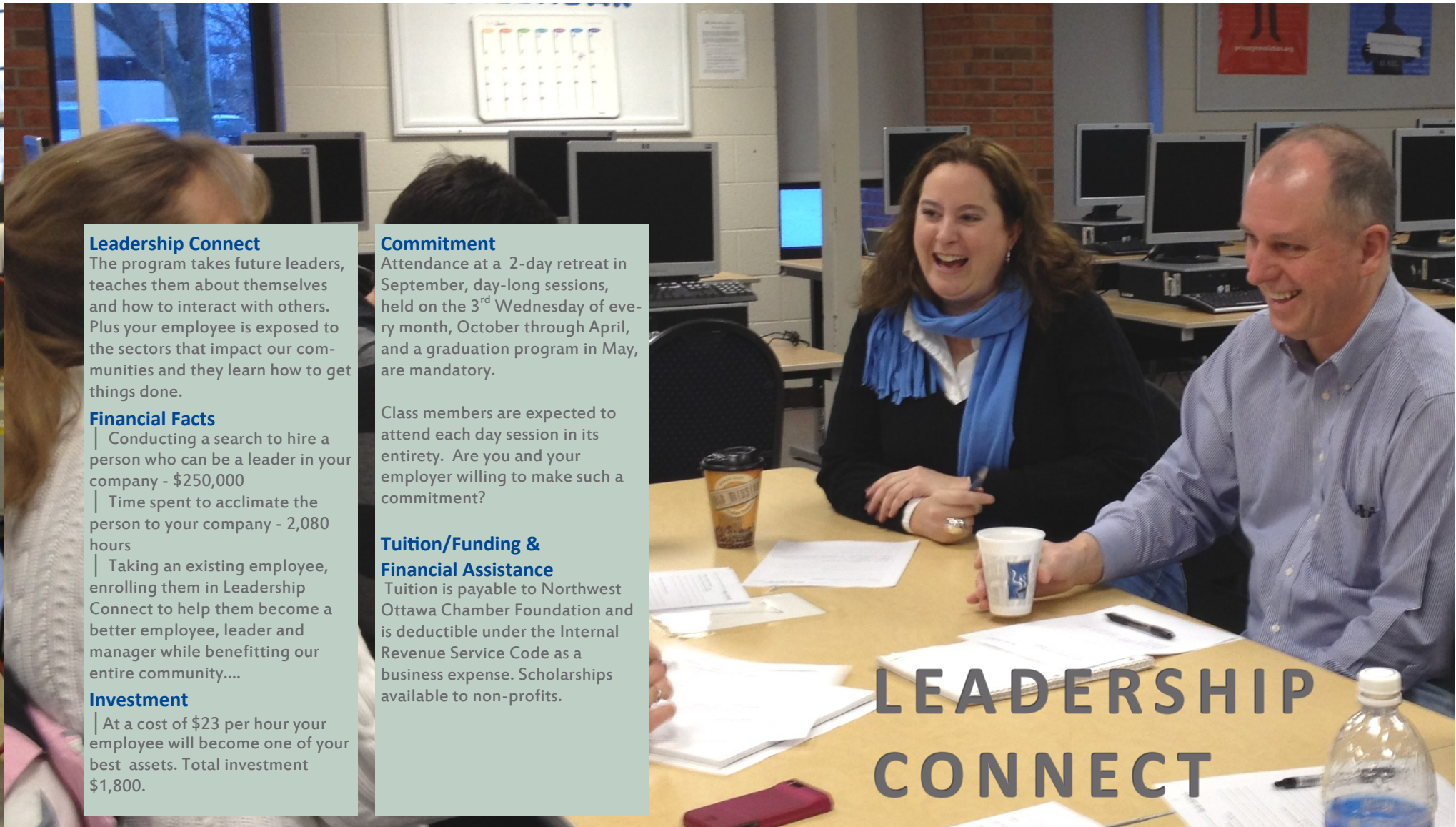
**Tony Verplank - President  
Pliant Plastics**

"Business exists for the betterment of society. And there are numerous aspects of society that allow businesses to thrive and prosper. One of the best ways to see and understand this symbiotic relationship is through the Leadership Connect program.

I had a very limited understanding of how the various aspects of our community came together to make Northwest Ottawa County one of the best places to live and work.

I found my experience in the program to be not only enlightening, but deeply rewarding both personally and professionally."

Tony Verplank  
Tony Verplank



**Leadership Connect**

The program takes future leaders, teaches them about themselves and how to interact with others. Plus your employee is exposed to the sectors that impact our communities and they learn how to get things done.

**Financial Facts**

- | Conducting a search to hire a person who can be a leader in your company - \$250,000
- | Time spent to acclimate the person to your company - 2,080 hours
- | Taking an existing employee, enrolling them in Leadership Connect to help them become a better employee, leader and manager while benefitting our entire community....

**Investment**

- | At a cost of \$23 per hour your employee will become one of your best assets. Total investment \$1,800.

**Commitment**

Attendance at a 2-day retreat in September, day-long sessions, held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month, October through April, and a graduation program in May, are mandatory.

Class members are expected to attend each day session in its entirety. Are you and your employer willing to make such a commitment?

**Tuition/Funding & Financial Assistance**

Tuition is payable to Northwest Ottawa Chamber Foundation and is deductible under the Internal Revenue Service Code as a business expense. Scholarships available to non-profits.

LEADERSHIP  
CONNECT

class member experience



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the story and intentional  
influence of the local leader





Leadership Connect  
is a program of the  
**the Chamber**  
Grand Haven  
Spring Lake  
Ferrysburg

**Joy Gaasch,**  
*Chamber President*

"Providing the Leadership Connect program to build leadership capacity for our community is a major commitment of a dedicated group of volunteers that guide Chamber staff in the continuous improvement of our 9 month program."

**Ron Mann,**  
*Chemical Bank*

"Leadership Connect has high standards, is results oriented, relationship building, mission focused, builds confidence and teaches one how to be a better team player/manager."

**Erica Phelps**  
*Tri-Cities Family YMCA*

"Human Services day was one of my favorite experiences. I was touched by the life story of a client from The People Center. The support of the director had made a real difference for the entire family. I appreciated the "hand-up" approach. I am happy to say that I am the newest member of The People Center Board. Leadership Connect opened this door and inspired me to take the next step."

**Nancy Manglos,** *Chamber  
Director of Talent & Leadership*

"Experience different areas of our community through the hands-on activities, strengthen and grow your network of relationships. Participants give back to the local community through several service projects over the course of the program."

**Leadership**  
the Chamber  
**Connect**



## The 2018-2019 Class Schedule

**Orientation:**  
August 29th  
4:00 - 5:30pm

**Opening Retreat**  
September 18th & 19th  
7:45am Tuesday till  
5:00pm Wednesday

**Human Services**  
October 17th  
7:30am - 5:00pm

**Regional Economy**  
November 14th  
7:30am - 5:00pm

**Judicial System**  
December 19th  
7:30am - 5:00pm

**Education**  
January 16th  
7:30am - 5:00pm

**Health Services**  
February 20th  
7:30am - 5:00pm

**State Government**  
March 20th  
6:30am - 5:00pm

**Putting it all Together**  
April 17th  
7:30am - 5:00pm

**Graduation**  
May 2nd  
Evening Reception



**Scott Reus - General Manager**  
*Lakeshore Fittings, Inc.*

"Leadership Connect has been a valuable developmental program for our people and our organization. We see significant leadership development and a broader wealth of knowledge due to exposure through LC's proven multi-disciplinary approach."

Our graduates have evolved their skills and brought back to the organization a more holistic view, strengthening their contribution to decision making and problem solving.

LC not only provides growth and development opportunities for our participants, but it also enables higher expectations for performance and teamwork.

We use the program as a tool to augment the leadership side of our comprehensive talent development initiatives."

**Scott Reus**  
**Scott Reus**

a company supporter of LC