

## Orientation Ideas to make your own!



### L'EVATE LEADERSHIP, Deann Bradford, Executive Director



Orientation for L'Evate is an important introduction to their year. The class meets in the mid-afternoon in a classroom-style setting. Our M3 (senior program) meets in a different room with a similar agenda. We allow about 30 minutes for them to

"gather" and talk. It is always fun to see them come in and see someone they know but do not know is in the class with them. We discuss why we do the Gallup Strengths program with Lori Weir (Alumni 2009), and Lori is in attendance and talks with them about the history of the program as well as why it works so well. Then we discuss the program days, attire for the year, Facebook, attendance, and other relevant things they need to know.

The one thing we do that many may not be aware of is we have a program called the LINK program. We have a Mentorship

Committee that is fairly large and serves as LINK'S to L'Evate for the Class members. They call on them after each program day and a few times during the year in between. They may have coffee together, text, e-mail, or talk on the phone,

but they develop a relationship, and we believe it encourages continued engagement after graduation. Feedback on this program has been great! The Mentorship Team is a board team and reports to the board monthly.

We then take both classes outside for group photos for Facebook. Then we line them up in the hallway and walk together into a reception with our Alumni. The Alumni all clap and yell to them a welcome to our family! It is very inspirational for the Class. This is the start of a reception together that ends in the classes being introduced, followed by more networking.

We have been doing this for many years, and it works for L'Evate.



L'Evate  
A Leadership Community



## GREATER JACKSON CHAMBER

Lauren Saliba, Director of Leadership Development



The Leadership University orientation session is a dynamic and transformative introduction to the empowering journey that awaits new students. This event is designed to instill a strong sense of leadership and community right from the start. The session commences with an inspiring talk by a former graduate who shares their personal triumphs and challenges, offering a glimpse into the personal growth that can be achieved throughout the program. This sets the tone for the subsequent segments, where students engage in a dedicated workshop on leadership skills, with a particular focus on time management—a critical skill that underpins successful leadership. Through interactive discussions and practical exercises, students gain valuable insights into prioritization, planning, and efficient resource allocation. Beyond the educational aspects, orientation also nurtures meaningful connec-

tions among peers. The “new best friend” activity fosters an environment of camaraderie and teamwork, encouraging students to step out of their comfort zones and forge bonds that will serve as a solid support system throughout their academic journey. Students are paired with

a classmate they do not know and share interesting topics about themselves. Afterwards, this is presented to the group. Furthermore, participants gain a deeper understanding of the community’s values and ethics through discussions about collective likes and dislikes. This ensures





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that every student feels an integral part of the university's fabric, enabling them to contribute positively to the community. This also helps the Leadership University board in planning future sessions to make sure we include topics that the participants are interested in. Concluding the orientation, parents are

invited to join for a session that outlines the program's guidelines and expectations. This collaborative approach ensures that both students and their families are aligned with our program's mission and vision. By providing insights into the commitment required and the resources available, this engagement fosters a strong partnership between the Leadership University board, the

students, and their families, setting the stage for a successful and impactful academic experience rooted in leadership and growth.



## LEADERSHIP TENNESSEE, Amy Goode, Director of Community Engagement



Comfort Zones Game: 30 minutes total

- Everyone stands up.
- Establish the comfort zones.
  - o One wall is very uncomfortable.
  - o Opposite wall is very comfortable
  - o Middle area is - take it or leave it.
- Instruct the group to respond to the scenario by moving to the part of the room they identify with.
- Tips for the facilitator:
  - o Let them define what the question scenario is, don't give specifics or answer their qualifying questions (i.e.- do you like olives? Q: black or

- green A: up to you. Then debrief in the moment. what difference would that make, did some people decide based only on green or only on black? How would your response change if I had given more direction/ if we weren't operating off of different assumptions?
- o Debrief throughout and call people out and ask why they chose what. Is there anyone who is always in the middle? Why?
- o Mix fun and serious questions.
- Examples of scenarios: (\* indicates

- good questions to debrief with throughout)
- o Snake slithering past your foot
- o Dancing on a stage in front of people\*
- o Asking a question if you don't understand something.
- o Being vulnerable
- o Olives/ Licorice\*
- o Having a disagreement with someone you don't know well calling someone out\*
- o Heights
- o Failing
- o Confronting your boss\*

- o UT Football?
- o Tennessee
  - \* END QUICKLY if you ask this, so they don't fully see who is where. Start debriefing here. Did you know what others assumed the meaning by the state of our state meant? It could be politically comfortable or comfortable with the weather.

- Debriefing:
  - o What did you learn about our group as a whole?
  - o How does what you learned impact you moving forward?
  - o Everyone has different levels of comfort with different topics, activities, etc., and you are the

only one who knows when you are in the different zones. So:

- o You have to be the one who pushes yourself and knows when you are learning.
  - \* We should try not to judge other people or make assumptions about what might be comfortable easy for some people based on what is comfortable/easy for ourselves.

- o THEMES TO MAKE SURE TO HIT:
  - \* Danger of assumptions/ lack of curiosity
  - \* People bring a lot from their lived experiences that inform how they respond to something or how comfortable they are. Our job is to be respectful/ ask questions to understand their perspective.



## 2023 TAFL CONFERENCE - NOT REGISTERED YET?

Excitement is building for our TAFL Conference in Paris-Henry County on October 18-20th. Keynote speakers are confirmed, breakout session topics are set, and your peers' panels are secured to share their best practices and insights. We haven't even gotten to the fun activities.....let's just say lots of great food, exciting and engaging after-hours events, and much more. You can find all the registration and hotel information by visiting the TAFL website, [www.leadershiptennessee.com](http://www.leadershiptennessee.com), and clicking on the "Conference" tab.





### Beth Rainey

Director, Provider Development, West Tennessee Healthcare  
Board Member, Leadership Jackson Alumni Association



“ I have attended several conferences in my professional life but have never experienced what I did at TACL. From the moment we arrived, everyone from the hosts to the attendees were so friendly and welcoming. It was like everyone there was invested in helping every leadership program in the state be as successful as possible. Servant leadership in its truest form. Experiencing breakout sessions where everyone was jumping in to help programs by brainstorming with them on what has worked and what hasn't was inspiring. I could quickly see why this conference has stood the test of time...the people! I was honored to attend and hopeful to attend next year as well. ”



### Jennie Wagner

President, Dickson County Chamber  
Leadership Dickson County & Youth Leadership Dickson County



“ This was my third TACL Conference to be a part of and if you're involved with a leadership program in your area, you need to mark the dates for 2023 on your calendar NOW! Once again I've learned lots of new things to use in both our program days and alumni group. The relationships I'm continuing to grow and build are priceless as well as the new connections I've made. Everyone is a wealth of information and lots of fun. ”



### Brandi Huskey

Board Member  
Leadership Sevier



“ I thoroughly enjoyed the 2022 TACL Conference. I met incredible leaders from across the state, participated in some helpful sessions and walked away truly believing that "EVERY room changes when love walks in" as Wade so eloquently put it during the opening keynote. I've always found joy and purpose in serving others and it's comforting to know others exist throughout our state who experience the same motivation in helping their communities identify and train leaders. ”



### Sabrina Blue

Founder & CEO, Helping Hands of Tennessee  
Board Member, Leadership Jackson Alumni Association



“ The TACL conference is an invaluable resource for any leadership program in developing and learning best practices from other leadership programs throughout the state. The Leadership Jackson Alumni Association board members learned ways that we can continuously stay engaged with our alumni through fun activities, increasing fundraising opportunities, to enhancing diverse applicants streams. Furthermore, I had the privilege of gaining new friendships with other leaders within the state. Helping people optimize their full potential was echoed throughout the conference. TACL is a great way that I was able to get recharged as I listened to motivational speakers during the conference. I highly recommend for leadership programs to join TACL and I'm looking forward to our next conference in Paris, Tennessee. ”



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## Contact Us



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A leader is best when  
people barely know  
he exists. When his  
work is done and his aim  
fulfilled, they will say:  
we did it ourselves.

-LAO TZU

We only covered one topic in our newsletter,  
come to the TACL Conference  
and learn from your peers  
about many topics impacting your program.

Conference Scholarships  
are available for TACL dues-paying members.



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