

# Getting Started

(Material in this section is from the Initiative for the Future of Rural Oklahoma Leadership Program at Oklahoma State University, developed by Renee A. Daugherty and Sue E. Williams, and is used with permission.)

Fourteen leadership lessons have been selected for the Building Connections: Community Leadership curriculum. This 10- to 15-hour program emphasizes building the leadership skills of community volunteer leaders for both youth and adult programs.

**Convened and managed locally.** This curriculum is designed to be managed locally rather than statewide. “Local” can be defined as neighborhood, community, multi-community, county or multi-county/regional.

**Duration.** This curriculum can be conducted over 6 to 10 months; or, it could be completed during a 1½- to 2-day retreat.

**Coordinator.** A person should be named to serve as coordinator for the local leadership development

program. Typically this person will be a county Extension agent or a master volunteer.

**Format.** The curriculum uses the following format:

- Training the coordinator to use the curriculum.
- Determining the structure of the leadership course (i.e., retreat, 6- to 10-month process with regularly scheduled workshops, etc.).
- Advertising the leadership course to the community (use the abstracts to promote the program to potential participants).
- Selecting persons to participate in the course.
- Beginning the workshop.
- Completing a course evaluation.
- Conducting a “graduation” ceremony or giving completion certificates to all who complete the course.

At the opening meeting explain that the theme of the program is leadership skills and team building. Each participant is to receive a notebook prepared in the county in whatever format the county prefers.

| Length  | Topic  | Resource person(s) |
|---------|--|--------------------|
| 3 hours | <b>Community Connections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicating Across Cultures</li> <li>• Creating a Vision and Establishing Goals</li> <li>• Strategic Planning</li> </ul>                 | Boleman            |
| 3 hours | <b>Personal Connections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personality Traits of Leaders</li> <li>• Developing Personal Leadership</li> <li>• Critical Thinking</li> <li>• Character/Ethics</li> </ul> | Boleman            |
| 3 hours | <b>Leadership Connections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leading Teams</li> <li>• Working in Groups</li> <li>• Embracing Generational Differences</li> <li>• Motivating Others</li> </ul>          | Lepley             |
| 3 hours | <b>Expanding Connections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteers—The Heart of the Community</li> <li>• Understanding Boards</li> <li>• Understanding County Government</li> </ul>                | Burkham            |