EMERGING LEADERS
PALM DESERT AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce has designed the Emerging Leaders Program with our next generation leaders in mind. Our mission is to help participants develop and strengthen skills in the following key areas:

- **Communication:** body language, verbal communication, presentation skills, active listening, interviewing, and more.
- **Leadership**: strategic planning, team building, giving feedback, decision-making, and more.
- **Personal:** self-leadership, professionalism, adaptability and emotional intelligence.
- **Professional:** organization, planning, scheduling, time management, business etiquette, ethics, writing and resume preparation.
- **Interpersonal**: networking, conflict resolution and relationship building.

Through interactive presentations, panels, guest speakers, and behind-the-scenes business tours, participants will gain valuable opportunities to practice these skills and connect with community and business leaders.

The Emerging Leaders Program will convene on the last Friday of each month from January through April 2027 and two sessions in May. Sessions will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The following dates require participant attendance:

January 29, 2027
February 26, 2027
March 26, 2027
April 30, 2027
May 21, 2027
May 28, 2027

Cost: $50 enrollment fee*, due January 25, 2027
Scholarships are available to help cover the fee for those who may need assistance.

Participation Guidelines:

- Applicant must be a current student at a Coachella Valley accredited university/higher education institution during the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Applicant must be in good academic standing with a 2.5 GPA or higher.
- Applicant must be committed to attend all six sessions. One unexcused absence will result in being dropped from the program. A maximum of two excused absences is allowed.

Application Process:

- Print and complete the attached application form.
- Submit completed application to your institution's Emerging Leader Program campus representative. (Career Center, dean's office, etc.) Or email directly to info@pdacc.org
- Applications have been extended and must be received by 4:00 p.m., December 3, 2026.
- All applicants will be notified of their status on or before December 11, 2026.
- Application **MUST** be signed off by your institution's Emerging Leader Program campus representative.

For more information, please contact the Palm Desert Area Chamber Office at (760) 346-6111.

APPLICATION

General Information

Full name: _____ Date: _____

Last *First* *M.I.*

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Street address *Apt/Unit #*

_____ Email: _____

City *State* *Zip Code*

Education

Current University/Institution _____ Expected Graduation Date: _____

Major: _____

What are your career goals? _____

Activities/Community Involvement

What other commitments do you have? _____

What is your proudest accomplishment? _____

Do you have a mentor? Yes ☐ No ☐ If no, would you be open to having one? Yes ☐ No ☐

In what ways do you plan to apply this experience to your future? _____

What qualities do you look for in an effective leader?

References

Please list two business or personal references and one faculty reference that the screening committee may contact.

Full name:		Relationship:	
Phone:		Email:	
Full name:		Relationship:	
Phone:		Email:	
Full name:		Relationship:	
Phone:		Email:	

Participation

To ensure the Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leaders program achieves its goals, full participation from each participant is required. Program expectations are as follows:

- Active participation in all curriculum sessions is mandatory.
- The enrollment fee is due by **January 25, 2027**. Please check here ☐ if you would like to be considered for a scholarship.
- More than one absence during the program year will result in dismissal from the program without a tuition refund.
- Late arrivals or partial attendance exceeding two occurrences will result in dismissal from the program.

I understand the purpose of the Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leaders program and that submitting this application does not guarantee acceptance into the current class. If selected, I agree to commit the necessary time, attend all required sessions, and not miss more than one. I also understand that participation requires being at least 18 years of age and currently enrolled at an accredited university in the Coachella Valley.

As a matter of policy, the Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce Emerging Leaders program does not discriminate based on race, religion, sex, national origin, color, age, or disability.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Additional Materials

Please provide a current resume and enrollment verification letter. The Emerging Leader Program campus representative must sign off on your application.

Signature: _____

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WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

1. I understand that participation in the *Emerging Leaders* program involves tours and activities at various locations and requires different forms of transportation to and from these locations. I further understand that these tours and travels entail potential and actual risks of injury to my person or property.

2. I agree to assume the risk of any injury to my person or property arising out of my participation in *Emerging Leaders*. I intend, by execution of this document, to release and hold harmless T*he Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce,* its directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and participants, and any other person or entity associated with *Emerging Leaders* from any claims or liabilities whatsoever arising out of, or related to, my participation in the program. This release and waiver shall be binding upon my heirs, successors, assigns, and anyone else who might make a claim or sue on my behalf.

3. Should any portion of this waiver be adjudged invalid, void, or unenforceable, for any reason, the remaining portions of this waiver shall remain in full force and effect. This agreement shall be interpreted according to the laws of the State of California.

4. By participating in this program, you grant permission to the organizers to use your name, likeness, image, voice, and/or appearance as may be captured in photographs, videos, or other media for promotional and informational purposes related to the program, without compensation or further approval.

5. I have carefully read this Waiver and Release and fully understand its contents. I am aware that this is a Release of Liability and a contract between me and the person and entities mentioned above.

Signature: _____ Date:_____

Print Name: _____