



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 fourth Friday of each month from January through June 2026, except April and June. Sessions will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The following dates require participant attendance:

January 23, 2026
February 27, 2026
March 27, 2026
April 17, 2026
May 22, 2026
June 5, 2026

Cost: \$50 enrollment fee*, due January 23, 2026

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 2025-2026 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 1, 2025.
- All applicants will be notified of their status on or before December 12, 2025.
- 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:

Last

First

M.I.

Date:

Address:

Street address

Apt/Unit #

Phone:

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 23, 2026**. 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:	_____
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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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