



Thank you to these
dedicated
participants and their
employers for
supporting Leadership
Chippewa Falls.

Kelsey Anderson
Jennifer Barrett
Amy Bauer
Andrea Blaeser
Charles Brannen
Christopher Brooke
Stacey Bunkelman
Myra Detienne
Andrea Finn
Chad Hable
Tony Hein
Michelle Heinzen
Paul Krupa
Linda May
Krista Mayer
Jennifer Prochnow
Ted Solberg
Michael Stoffel

2019 - 2020 Leadership Class



Kelsey Anderson has been serving as the E-Learning Specialist at Chippewa Valley Technical College since April 2018. Previously she was a business and marketing teacher and coach at Abbotsford Middle/High School. She earned her bachelor's degree from UW - Stout in business and marketing education and her master's degree from Marian University in educational technology. Kelsey grew up in Bloomer and currently lives in Chippewa Falls. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, golfing, and traveling.



Jennifer (Jenn) Barrett is the Director of Homeless services at the L.E. Phillips Outreach Office located in downtown Chippewa Falls. Jenn also works as the Hope Village Navigator and does assessments, intake and case management for the tiny houses. Jenn came to this position after 20 years with an agency supporting children and adults with intellectual Disabilities/mental health needs, with a specialty in autism and unique/challenging behaviors. Jenn is part of the Chippewa Council on Hunger and Homelessness and leads their monthly meetings. She sits on the United Way Basic Needs Advisory Council and is a strong advocate for those who are vulnerable and/or in need. Jenn lives in the Chippewa Valley with her family and is currently looking for a large parcel of acreage to build a home on.



Amy Bauer has worked for Royal Credit Union for 13 years. She has been the Vice President of Shared Project Services for the past four years. Her education includes a Master of Business Administration from UW-Oshkosh and a bachelor of science from UW - Stout. She recently became certified as a Senior Certified Professional from the Society for Human Resource Management. Amy is an active volunteer with Junior Achievement, teaching in classrooms for 15 years and participating on the Northwest WI Board for the past three years. Within the credit union industry, she participates in user groups on the topics of project management and human resources/organizational development. Amy grew up in Cadott, and returned to the Chippewa Falls area 15 years ago. Her two children attend schools within the district.

Educating, Motivating, and Developing Chippewa Falls' Future Leaders

Leadership Chippewa Falls 2019 - 2020 Class



Andrea Blaeser is the Director of the Foundation at HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital. She has been in this role since January 2019. Andrea previously served as the Development Director of the Chippewa Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America from 2010-2019. She received her BS and her MBA from UW - Eau Claire as well as a certificate in

Nonprofit Development Leadership. She is a member of the Chippewa Falls Kiwanis Club and formerly served on the steering committee of Chippewa Valley Fund Raising Professionals. Andrea resides in Eau Claire with her husband Mathew.

Each monthly session has a specific focus that ranges from local government to education to healthcare. The goal of each class day is to challenge thinking and inspire participants to get involved in their community.



Charles "Buddy" Brannen was born and raised in Mondovi, Wisconsin. He earned a BS in Education focusing on K - 12 art education from Viterbo University. During this time in La Crosse Buddy also met his wife, a true Chippewa Falls native, Jaynee Armstrong. They returned to Chippewa

Falls when he was hired as the K - 12 art teacher for the School District of Greenwood in 2010 and a part-time job serving beer samples at the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company - Leinie Lodge. In 2016, Buddy took a K - 12 art position at the School District of Loyal. In 2018, he resigned from teaching and took on a full-time roll at the Leinie Lodge as the Warehouse and Operations Supervisor. Buddy is a true advocate for promoting all of what the Chippewa Valley has to offer to the many guests he interacts with on a daily basis. He is a member of the Boys and Girls Club Advisory Council, Young Professionals of the Chippewa Valley, Spirit of Christmas Chippewa County, Oktoberfest Volunteer Committee, an active volunteer at Agnes's Table, and promotes clean water by participating in Great Water Month and Canoes For A Cause through the Jacob Leinenkugel Brewing Company. He enjoys traveling with his wife, volunteering, spending time with friends, running, skiing, and landscaping.



Christopher Brooke has lived in the Chippewa Valley since 2001. Born in San Diego, California, Christopher and his family moved from the West Coast to the East Coast as his father completed his military commitment. Christopher's family eventually settled in Texas. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. After graduation, Christopher worked for Dell Computer in Round

Rock, Texas. In 2001, Christopher moved to the Chippewa Valley. He has been working in the financial services industry since. Christopher is currently a Senior Business Loan Officer with WESTconsin Credit Union assisting business members and communities they serve. Christopher enjoys being involved in the community through Junior Achievement, United Way, Kiwanis Club, Chippewa Strikers Soccer Club, and the Central Lutheran Foundation.



Stacey Bunkelman is a Treasury Management Officer at CCF Bank. The Lake Hallie branch is where her office is housed, however she travels between the 28 branches within Wisconsin and Minnesota servicing their commercial customers. She enjoys working closely and building relationships with CCF's clients

while assisting each of them to create personalized efficiencies through operations and finance. Stacey lives with her husband, Justin, and their son, Carter, in Chippewa Falls. She is the PTO President of her son's elementary school in Jim Falls. She is also an Ambassador of the Chippewa Falls Chamber of Commerce, member of the June Dairy Dinner Committee through the Chippewa Falls Chamber of Commerce. Stacey volunteers on various other organizations as well. She enjoys boating on Lake Wissota in the summer, being active, traveling, and is her son Carter's biggest hockey fan.



Myra Detienne is a native of Chippewa Falls, and currently works as a National Sales Representative at ChemCeed. She graduated from St. Thomas in Minnesota that launched to working with companies in R&D, pharmaceutical sales, and ultimately chemical sales. She's been an active participant and volunteer in Chippewa Falls Senior High School

events, including the Marching Band and Walk for Hope (suicide awareness and prevention). She also partakes in local events, i.e. Savor the Arts and community productions held at the Heyde Art Center. Myra lives in Chippewa Falls with her husband and 2 youngest children since 1999. Her oldest son is completing his first year at UW - Madison.

Educating, Motivating, and Developing Chippewa Falls' Future Leaders

Leadership Chippewa Falls 2019 - 2020 Class



Andrea Finn is the Marketing Manager at Royal Credit Union (RCU). She has been with RCU for over seven years and has a combined 14 years of experience in marketing. She earned her bachelor's degree in marketing from UW - Eau Claire in 2006, along with an Advanced Business Communications Certificate. Andrea is actively involved in Youth Leadership Eau Claire, Junior Achievement in the Chippewa Falls

School District and Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes. Andrea Finn was born and raised in Chippewa Falls, and is married with three children.



Chad Hable grew up in Chippewa Falls and attended UW-Eau Claire where he earned his accounting degree. He is a Manager on the Health Care Senior Living team at Wipfli LLP. Chad is a practicing CPA and works with nursing homes and assisted living facilities across the United States. Chad is in his seventh year volunteering his time co-chairing the Extravaganza

Committee for the Chippewa Falls Senior High School Athletic Booster Club. When he's not working on house updates to his centennial home, he can be found enjoying time outdoors hunting or fishing. Chad lives in Chippewa Falls with his wife, Amanda, and they are expecting their first child in June.



Tony Hein is Vice President of Commercial Lending at Citizens State Bank and primarily works from their main office in Cadott. Tony has held several banking positions from Bank Management to Market President. Prior to banking, he was the General Manager for a big box retailer for eleven years. Tony has gone to college for business management and attended college in

Winona, MN. He has attended several seminars, trainings, and classes related to development, leadership, and business management. An active member of the community, Tony is the Treasurer for the Bloomer Education Foundation, a board member of the Bloomer Industrial Development Committee, and a member of the Chippewa Falls Chamber of Commerce. Tony lives in Bloomer with his significant other Brenda Ruffedt, owner of Bloomer Screen Printing and Embroidery. He has been in the Chippewa Falls area for the last four years.



Michelle Heinzen is the Assistant Vice President, Bank Manager with Associated Bank. Michelle is using her more than 20 plus years in the financial industry in her new role with Associated Bank. Michelle received a degree in hospitality management from Chippewa Valley Technical College. When not at work Michelle enjoys spending time with her husband, Jim, and two adult

children as well as her first granddaughter. Their whole family is heavily involved in the Ski Sprites Water Ski Organization.



Paul Krupa is a merchandiser at Mason Companies in Chippewa Falls, and previously spent seven years working at the Menards buying office in a variety of roles. He graduated Magna Cum Laude from Carthage College in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing. In his spare time, he enjoys volunteering as a mentor with Big Brothers Big Sisters. Originally from

Amery, Paul has called Eau Claire home since 2012.



Linda May is currently serving as the Regional Executive Director of the YMCA of the Chippewa Valley. She recently relocated from Pittsburgh, PA with her husband, Chuck Conner, and has served the YMCA for 18 years. She was born in Green Bay and graduated from UW - River Falls with a BS in agriculture education. Linda serves on Chippewa Health Improvement Partnership, 100+ Women Who Care and is Y-USA Faculty Trainer in Volunteerism & Living Our Cause.



Krista Mayer, a Chicago native, was hired in January 2019 as Northwestern Bank's Business Banker. Krista has over four years of banking experience after graduating from Marquette University in 2015 with a degree in finance and international business. Krista is passionate about supporting her community through various volunteer opportunities including Junior Achievement, Girl Scouts, and the Chippewa Falls Police Alumni Association. Krista lives in Cornell where she spends her time with her two dogs, and cat.

Educating, Motivating, and Developing Chippewa Falls' Future Leaders

Leadership Chippewa Falls 2019 - 2020 Class



Jennifer Prochnow is an Executive Assistant at Xcel Energy, currently supporting the President of Xcel Energy - Wisconsin. As part of her role, she serves as an Xcel Energy Foundation Representative, and is responsible for facilitating the Foundation's grant funds for their Wisconsin service territory.

Jennifer has been with Xcel Energy for four years, three of which were spent in their Minneapolis headquarters. Prior to joining Xcel Energy, Jennifer worked at Navopache Electric Cooperative in Lakeside, AZ. Jennifer currently serves on the Family Support Center Board of Directors and is a member of the Chippewa Valley Technical College Executive Assistant Advisory Committee. She earned a BBA from Capella University in Minneapolis. While new to Chippewa Falls, Jennifer is a Wisconsin native having grown up in northwestern WI. After several years of living and working out of state, Jennifer and her family returned to WI to enjoy all the state has to offer - including Packers games on local channels, awesome four seasons of recreation, and CHEESE!



Ted Solberg is the Director of Sourcing and Inventory Management for Mason Companies, Inc. where he has worked the past four years. Prior to moving to Mason Companies, Ted was the Replenishment Manager at Menard, Inc. in Eau Claire. Ted graduated from UW - Eau Claire with a finance degree. Ted is also the offensive line

coach for the Chippewa Falls Senior High School football team. He has served as a board member and past president of both Chippewa Falls Youth Baseball and Cardinal Hoops organizations. He has served on his church council and a term as the council treasurer. He was also the youth program director for several years. Ted was a member of the Town of Wheaton Parks and Planning Commission for four years. Ted lives with his wife, Christina, and three of their children, Keyton, Kolbe, and Adia in Chippewa Falls. Their oldest daughter, Samantha, and grandson, Onyx, live in Wausau. Ted enjoys a lazy day on the lake floating in the boat, soaking up the sun or hitting the cross country ski trails.

The program culminates by participants organizing into teams and identifying issues or challenges in Chippewa Falls. Teams work on projects designed to raise awareness of an issue, improve team skills and effect change.



Michael Stoffel works at Ayres Associates in Eau Claire as a Civil Engineer in the Municipal Group. He graduated with a BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the UW - Madison and became a Wisconsin Registered Professional Engineer. Mike is also a registered engineer in Arizona, Indiana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, and Texas. He is a registered Miner with the Mine Safety Health Administration (MSHA) and graduated from the UW-Eau Claire Supervisory Management Certificate Program. He is a member of the Wisconsin and National Societies of Professional Engineers, Wisconsin Rural Water Association, and American Water Works Association. Mike is active in St. Peter's Catholic Church and School, McDonell High School Stage Crew, the Chippewa Chamber as an Ambassador, as an Oktoberfest volunteer and as a Glockenspiel performer, the Eau Claire Chamber Breakfast in the Valley Planning committee as the "Egg Chief", the Knights of Columbus, the McDonell High School Foundation, and the Chippewa Partners Board. Mike and his wife, Lisa, live in Tilden and are proud of their two children and their careers.

2021 - 2022 Leadership Applications

Historically the Chippewa Falls Area has been fortunate in having excellent leadership from its businesses and various other segments of the community. Our area continually experiences many issues due to the constant influence of change and growth. How these issues are managed depends, to a considerable degree, upon informed, skilled, and concerned community leaders. This program offers a way to ensure that the tradition of strong leadership continues in the Chippewa Falls area. This program acquaints participants with a broad understanding of community issues and civic challenges facing our community. Each month, participants are exposed to one sector of the Chippewa Falls community; community service/quality of life, business, infrastructure, government, education, healthcare, media and volunteer opportunities. They have the opportunity to meet key leaders in these areas, discuss the challenges within the community, and determine how these challenges might be resolved. Leadership Chippewa Falls consists of eight half-day sessions and a recognition dinner. Attendance at the sessions is required for both the success of the program and the benefits they receive from the program. If you are interested in our next Leadership class, please contact us for an application.

Educating, Motivating, and Developing Chippewa Falls' Future Leaders