ASHS Leadership Academy Class II: Apply now!

*Chad Miller, Fellow Class I*

**Learn** **Engage** **Acquire** **Demonstrate** **Enhance** **Reflect**

Do you know a colleague or perhaps a professional mentee that you consider a leader, or they have qualities of being a future leader, with professional development opportunities? Or maybe you? Yes, YOU. Do you want to develop your leadership skills? Apply now to become a fellow in the second ASHS Leadership Academy Class.

ASHS provides a plethora of opportunities for members to improve and advance their professional skills. One aim of the ASHS mission is to culture and develop future research, teaching, and extension leaders for the society, horticulture as a whole, and for the respective Fellow’s organizations and community. The ASHS Leadership Academy program is an enriching experience that has been developed by other ASHS leaders and professionals.

Becoming an effective leader isn’t easy; it takes work! And no doubt, being a leader can be challenging. For some, leadership comes naturally, while for others, some skill development can produce a better leader.

In the yearlong Leadership Academy, specific topics or themes, related to personal and leadership development, are addressed and covered through in-person and virtual sessions. Throughout the program, fellows learn about, engage in, acquire skills, demonstrate and enhance and reflect upon the different topics and themes. In these monthly sessions, fellows delve into topics such as, leadership qualities and traits, techniques for being effective leaders, understanding bias and conflicts, conversation skills, and emotional intelligence.

The sessions delivered by the Academy organizers and professionals require fellows to do pre- and post-reading homework and reflection on these topics, through assignments that are shared and discussed during the sessions and through journaling. Fellows will also work with seasoned colleagues on developing skills related to interacting with elected officials, culminating in a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit with legislative officials, and engaging in horticulture advocacy.

From first-hand experience, I can say that more than half way through the program; I have learned so much from the sessions and my cohorts. One of the most impactful outcomes of this program for me has been the ability realize and put into context, thoughts, ideas, and actions of the activities I do, related to leadership. And to know that there are some areas I have been excelling at, while understanding and identifying areas that I can work on, to be more effective. And some of the concepts I have learned I have also been able to share or implement in the undergraduate and graduate classroom, working to develop and create future horticulture leaders. I look forward to finishing the program and further developing a skill set to assist in my personal and professional leadership opportunities ahead.
If this sounds like a professional development opportunity for you, follow the link below for more information and application portal for the ASHS Leadership Academy Class II. Or if you know someone who would benefit from enhanced leadership skills, encourage them to apply to this program! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me (ctmiller@ksu.edu).

Click here to learn more and to apply to the ASHS Leadership Program Class II.