



KANSAS BANKERS
ASSOCIATION

2025 Bank Leaders of Kansas Program



Bank Leaders Of Kansas

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"The BLOK program is beneficial for varying levels of bank leaders, adding needed balance and perspective. It's all about people in all levels of leadership in and outside the bank - that's a key take away for me."

-Jonathon C. Johnson, 2017 BLOK Class,
2020 - 2021 KBA Chairman
President & CEO,
Home Savings Bank, Chanute

BUILDING ON THE FUTURE OF THE KANSAS BANKING INDUSTRY

2025 BANK LEADERS OF KANSAS PROGRAM

OBJECTIVES

The Bank Leaders of Kansas (BLOK) Program is a leadership development program coordinated by the Kansas Bankers Association. The BLOK program is designed to improve the leadership skills of Kansas bankers and accomplishes that goal through four primary objectives:

- To increase the individual banker's understanding and knowledge of the structure and governance of the KBA; including a complete overview of programs, services, and representation provided by the KBA.
- To increase the individual banker's understanding of the state and federal legislative process and increase their willingness to actively support and defend the Kansas banking industry.
- Attend a KBA Board of Directors meeting
- To increase the individual banker's understanding and awareness of the various state and federal agencies that govern the banking industry in Kansas and how those agencies interact with the KBA.
- To improve the individual banker's leadership and communication skills through professional development and leadership training sessions and to provide a clear understanding of the individual banker's role as a volunteer KBA leader.

"Being a highly regulated business with plenty of time in the public spotlight, it is critical bankers understand current issues and can advocate for smart legislation and public awareness. BLOK offers tremendous information and an opportunity for participants to build a strong network with KBA staff and other bankers."

- Mike Hamilton, 2023 BLOK Class, EVP - Ag Banking, Adams Bank & Trust, Colby



SESSION I - BUILDING A CONFIDENT KBA VOLUNTEER LEADER/ GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE -TOPEKA (FEBRUARY 4-6, 2025)

- Learn the history and structure of the KBA...your association
- Learn the responsibilities and roles of your association staff
- Learn about the state legislative process & how you can make a difference
- Behind the scenes look at the legislative process
- What influences legislators? ...a legislator's perspective
- Do's and don'ts when making personal contacts
- Knowing all the players (other organizations/associations)
- Making personal visits with your legislators
- Learn about the Office of the State Bank Commissioner
- State regulations adoption process & how you can have an impact

"Every banker should have BLOK in their quiver! BLOK will not only educate you on how the state and federal legislature works, but also show how you can take a role in helping improve the banking landscape. BLOK is a great way to learn to be a better leader, employee, and coworker. Networking with new friends and peers will provide relationships you will lean on throughout your banking career."

-George von Leonrod, 2024 BLOK Class, President & CEO, First National Bank of Dighton

SESSION II - FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM AND FDIC 101/ LEADERSHIP LESSONS (APRIL 16-18, 2025)

Get a unique behind-the-scenes view of the Federal Reserve Banking System, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), and high level executive management coaching, including...

- Learn about the structure and history of the Federal Reserve Banking system and the FDIC
- Consume information from the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank's staff on topics ranging from current banking conditions to payment systems trends to shifting consumer demographics to the latest advances in mobile banking technology
- Learn about the challenges and opportunities facing bank CEOs in Kansas' fastest growing region
- Receive a unique look at how community banks in Kansas are competing with one another from Dr. Bruce Morgan, one of Kansas' leading bank consultants
- Receive personal and professional accountability training by Executive Coach Ted Garnett of Performance Resource Consulting



SESSION III - IMPROVING BANK PERFORMANCE AND BUILDING TEAMS THAT WORK - WICHITA (JULY 9-11, 2025)

Hone your individual leadership skills, including...

- Becoming a better communicator
- Learning how to build and lead a winning team
- Learning what it takes to become a successful CEO
- Establishing your personal brand
- Identifying values that will guide you as a successful banker
- Hear from KBA leaders on what it takes to step up and represent the industry
- Learn from business and industry leaders on how to recruit & retain quality talent
- Complete a self-accountability action project that builds on techniques and lessons of previous sessions' executive training

SESSION IV - MARCH ON CAPITOL HILL - WASHINGTON, D.C. (SEPTEMBER 14-17, 2025)

Help carry the banking industry torch in Washington, DC with KBA's Board of Directors and Federal Affairs Committee members...

- Learn what makes KBA and ABA effective on Capitol Hill
- Focus on the banking industry's allies and adversaries on Capitol Hill
- Visit members of the Kansas Congressional delegation
- Hear first-hand from Congressional staffers about what works and what doesn't
- Visit Washington D.C.'s breathtaking monuments
- Learn from top bank leaders from across Kansas

GRADUATION: KBA GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CONFERENCE - TOPEKA (FEBRUARY 4, 2026)

IMPORTANT DATES

Application Deadline is November 1, 2024 Notification of Selection Status by December 31, 2024

APPLICATION & SELECTION PROCESS

The Kansas Bankers Association (KBA) extends an invitation to any owner or employee of a bank or company that is a member or strategic partner of the KBA to apply for a position in the BLOK program. Applicants should be able to demonstrate an increasing level of responsibility, potential for continuing to play a leadership role in Kansas, and evidence of professional and personal improvement since completing their formal education. Work experience, scope of personal interests, level of community involvement, and recognition of leadership abilities through receipt of honors/awards may also have significant impact in the final selection process. Only those willing to thoughtfully complete an application, and attend and participate in all four sessions need apply.

Qualified individuals can apply for the BLOK program by completing a BLOK application form and returning it by the November 1, 2024, deadline. Applications can be found at the KBA website, www.ksbankers.com. Completed forms and two reference letters can be mailed to the KBA office or emailed to Sara Blubaugh, program coordinator, at sblubaugh@ksbankers.com. Applications are reviewed by the BLOK Selection Committee and selected applicants will be informed by December 31, 2024. **Class size will be limited to 20 individuals.**



"The unforgettable journey of the BLOK program opened my eyes to the dynamic leadership needed in the banking industry and how important it is to advocate for the future of community banking. I developed lasting relationships with my incredible banker classmates."

Brian Whitesell, 2020-21 BLOK Class, Vice President, Commercial Banking at Landmark National Bank, Manhattan.

TUITION

Tuition of \$1,395 per participant is charged to partially cover program costs and meals associated with the sessions. Tuition includes complimentary registration for KBA's 2025 and 2026 Government Relations Conference and Legislative Reception. It also includes complimentary participation in many special events associated with KBA's Federal Affairs Advocacy Trip to Washington, D.C. Upon acceptance into the program, participants will be responsible for their own transportation and lodging expenses.

"The BLOK program is an outstanding leadership program providing many networking opportunities and an invaluable lesson about the role of the KBA, politics and the banking industry. I would highly recommend the BLOK program."

- Kendal Kay, 2008 BLOK Class, President, Stockgrowers State Bank, Ashland

KANSAS BANKERS ASSOCIATION APPLICATION FOR THE BANK LEADERS OF KANSAS (BLOK) PROGRAM

IN ORDER FOR THIS APPLICATION TO BE CONSIDERED IT MUST BE FILLED OUT IN ITS ENTIRETY. PLEASE TYPE.

Name _____
(First) (Middle Initial) (Last) (Nickname)

Home Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Home E-mail _____

Cell Phone () _____

Date of Birth _____ Spouse's Name (if applicable) _____

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Bank _____

Position _____

How Long in Current Position _____ How Long in Banking _____

Work Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Work Phone () _____

Work Email _____

EDUCATION INFORMATION

Please mark highest level of education completed:

() High school graduate () College graduate () Other _____

Degree/Diploma Received _____ Year _____

School/College or University _____

COMMUNITY/LEADERSHIP

List all leadership or committee positions held by you in the past five years (These may include, but are not limited to church, local government, civic groups, trade associations, etc.) For all additional questions, if more space is needed we encourage you to use a separate Word document for your answers.

Position or Involvement	Years Held
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

List any awards and/or recognition received:

Indicate examples where you fostered expansion, improvement, or changes in your bank:

Give a brief description of yourself and tell why you would like to be selected for this leadership program. Please share the skills, talents, and personality traits that best describe you.

REFERENCE INFORMATION

Please provide a reference letter from your employer, and one from someone other than your employer, who knows of your abilities. List your two references below and attach their letters to this application.

- 1. _____
(Name) (Firm) (City) (Phone)
- 2. _____
(Name) (Firm) (City) (Phone)

RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO: KBA, P.O. BOX 4407, TOPEKA, KANSAS 66604-0407 OR EMAIL: sblubaugh@ksbankers.com OR FAX TO 785-232-3484.