

Building Leaders... Building Communities



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Help Make Your Community a City of Distinction

Effective leadership with a sound understanding of community development in today's environment is critical to a community's future. The mission of Citizens Academy, offered through the Oklahoma Community Institute, is to give local residents the skills and information needed to think in new ways about the business of building community and then implement those new ways. To date, there are over 200 Citizens Academy alumni from over 77 communities all across the state.

The Citizens Academy is perfect for individuals who:

- **Have a stake in the future of his/her community**
- **Want to see his/her community maintain or improve its quality of life**
- **Have a passion for his/her community with a desire to learn how to make an impact on its future**
- **Want to be more involved in the decision making in his/her community**

If you are interested in learning more about Citizens Academy, please contact Rachel Meinke at rmeinke@ocionline.org or by phone at (405) 208-8883.

What People are Saying About Citizens Academy

"Through the Citizens Academy experience, graduates become empowered and motivated to effect change in their communities. The class assignments and lectures promote an understanding of the processes by which economic and community development occur."

Sid Willis (Class III), City Councilman, City of Altus

“The Oklahoma Citizens Academy has been instrumental in our community for development of our hidden assets and overcoming our current liabilities. If you have desire to improve your community, the Citizens Academy is a great place to start because the network is in place, and all you need to do is engage their principles and resources.”

Jeff Lockett (Class II), Pioneer Technology Center - Fairfax

“OCI’s Citizens Academy has, without question, provided me with a practical, hands-on model of effective community leadership and economic development. The class should be a prerequisite for any individual wanting to take a proactive leadership role at any level of state or local government.”

Jeff Johnson (Class I), City Councilman, President, First Capital Bank - Kingfisher

“Citizens Academy gave me the skills and confidence to go out in my community and affect change. We can all make a difference.”

Claudia Griffith (Class VII) , Community Volunteer - Norman

“I wasn’t sure what to expect when I was accepted into Citizens Academy. I thought we would come out with a lot of book information, but I was wrong. We applied what we were taught to real case scenarios. I was forever changed by these experiences. I now know that I have the knowledge and skills to go out in my community and make a difference.”

Debby Keith (Class VIII), Development Specialist, City of Sallisaw

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