



## PRESS RELEASE



### Leadership Pearland Class of 2026 Business Day

Pearland, Texas, October 21, 2025

The Pearland Leadership Class began the day with an excellent presentation by **Sonya Atkins-Goodman** of **HumanEdge Resource Solutions** on *Generational Leadership*. Sonya emphasized the value of fostering a diverse blend of fresh ideas and seasoned wisdom within teams. She also highlighted the importance of being intentional in developing and cultivating leadership across all generations.

The next morning session featured a presentation by **Matt Buchanan**, President of the **Pearland Economic Development Corporation (PEDC)**. Matt provided an overview of the PEDC's *Prosperity Plan*, emphasizing the importance of job creation and industry retention in strengthening our community's tax base. He also underscored PEDC's commitment to making Pearland a place where people want to live, work, and play.

The Leadership Class then visited **Koza's**, where **Joseph Koza** provided the group with a guided tour of their facility. During the tour, Mr. Koza shared an overview of the wide range of products they offer and explained the processes involved in fulfilling large-scale orders—many times in the thousands. The group gained valuable insight into how their team efficiently manages production while maintaining exceptional service for their clients. Koza's specializes in creating high-quality promotional items for both businesses and individuals.

The Business Day excursion continued with a visit to **Merit Medical Services**, where the class enjoyed a delicious lunch from Central Texas Barbeque. The host, **Paul Douthwaite**, provided an informative tour and introduced to the group the various life-saving medical devices manufactured by Merit Medical right here in Pearland, Texas, and distributed globally. These innovative products are primarily designed for use in cardiology, radiology, oncology, and endoscopy.

The next stop was **Endress+Hauser**, where **Jannelly Billy** guided Leadership group through their state-of-the-art facility. Information was given by several of their employees and The Pearland Leadership Class discovered that Endress+Hauser is a global leader in measurement instrumentation, providing cutting-edge solutions worldwide. The tour also included their advanced training area, showcasing the company's commitment to in-house professional development and continuous innovation.

Next, the class visited **Spacio.US**, where **Missy and David Graham** welcomed the group with a "trick-or-treat" style tour of their facility. Spacio.US is a flexible coworking space designed to accommodate a variety of needs across three distinct buildings. Their versatile spaces are ideal for events and meetings, offering a wide range of layouts, making it an excellent option for aspiring entrepreneurs.

The Business Day for the Pearland Leadership class concluded with a tour of another great business in the Pearland Area: **Burns & McDonnell**. Burns & McDonnell is an infrastructure design company. **Kristen McAdams** gave our group a tour of their Construction Academy – where they offer comprehensive training that includes hands-on field instruction.



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### **Leadership Pearland Class of 2026 visits The Community of Choice on City Day**

Pearland, Texas, November 17, 2025

**Leadership Pearland** is a program that equips participants with the tools and insights needed to lead effectively in a growing and dynamic city. This year's class includes 15 individuals who encompass a range of occupations from Municipal employees, Health Care supervisors, financial gurus to leaders in the future of our education system.

City Day was comprised of the Leadership Pearland class visiting City Hall, Municipal Court, Animal Shelter & Adoption Center, Fire Station #4, and the Surface Water Treatment Plant.

Speakers at City Hall included Trent Epperson, City Manager of City of Pearland, Gladis Sanchez from the City Secretary's Office, Joshua Lee from the Communications Department, and Vance Wyly from Community Development, offering valuable information about their respective roles. Mr. Epperson shared an impressive statistic that according to U.S. News & World Report, Pearland was recently awarded being the #1 Best Place to Live in Texas and ranked #3 overall in the United States.

Tours were led by Carry Capers at the Delores Fenwick Nature Center, Ryden Cohen at the Police Department, Josh Craft at the Animal Shelter, Steven Arnett at the Fire Station and Shaun Gilmore at the Water Treatment Plant. The class learned about current programming, volunteer opportunities and day to operations.

As the sun began to set, the class had a wonderful dinner hosted by Magnolia Cajun Comfort with members of City Council. This allowed the class to break bread with elected officials from the City, connecting on past experiences, future goals, and everything in between.

Ending the day with Mayor Cole recognizing the Leadership Class and showcasing why this program is valued and truly something special.

Pearland's current population sits at 133,000, and after just one day gaining insight as to how the city functions, it easy to understand why Pearland's tagline is, "The Community of Choice." The organization and amenities could compete with those of a much larger urban area, demonstrating Pearland's commitment to providing a vibrant, well-managed, and welcoming community for all.



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### Leadership Pearland Class of 2026 Service Day

Pearland, Texas, December 2, 2025

On **Tuesday, December 2**, the **Leadership Pearland** group completed an inspiring **Service Day** dedicated to learning, giving back, and connecting with the community.

The day began at the **Pearland Chamber of Commerce**, where the group attended an engaging presentation hosted by **Liz Sitta**, Chief Administrator of **Brazoria County**. Following the session, the team visited the **Pearland Neighborhood Center** to volunteer for its Annual Food Drive. While there, members connected with community leaders and volunteers who are making a meaningful impact in Pearland.

During their time at the PNC, the group also learned about the **Pearland Lions Club**, with **Buck Stevens** sharing the impressive contributions the organization continues to make for Pearland residents, the broader community, and its youth.

The Service Day continued with visits to the **Forgotten Angels Foundation**, **Saving Grace Women's Home**, and **Isaiah 117 House**. Each organization shared how they are touching lives through compassion, opportunity, and dedicated service—ensuring that no one in Pearland is left behind.

Overall, it was a powerful day of service, education, and community engagement for the Leadership Pearland cohort.