Norwalk Leadership Institute

2026 – 2027 Program

INTRODUCTIONS & TOUR OF NORWALK

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 8:30am – 12pm
Bus leaves promptly at 9am

The Norwalk Inn and Conference Center
99 East Ave, Patio
Norwalk, CT 06851

Restroom break and brief tour at Maritime Aquarium

Speakers

- Alex Cross – Asst. Director of Business Development & Tourism, City of Norwalk

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 8:30 - 11am
Lockwood Mathews Mansion
295 West Ave
Norwalk CT 06854

Workshop Facilitator – Dr. Leonaura Rhodes

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Wednesday, November 18, 2026, 8:30 -10:30am
Norwalk Hospital
34 Maple Street
Norwalk, CT 06854
5th Floor Patio Room

Speakers

- Mike Giambalvo – Vice President of Operations, Northwell Health
- Nancy Coughlin – Executive Director, Person-to-Person
- Rob Cashel – President & CEO, Family & Children's Agency
- Julienne Foy – Chief of Community Services, City of Norwalk
- Kenneth Waller – CEO, Norwalk Community Health Center

Moderator: Adam Bovilsky – Executive Director, Norwalk Housing Authority

LEADERSHIP

Wednesday, December 2, 2026, 8:30 -10:30am
Stew Leonard's
100 Westport Ave
Westport, CT 06880

Speakers

- Jason Patlis – President & CEO, The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk
- Fred Dimyan – CEO, POTOO Solutions
- Novelette Peterkin – CEO, The Carver
- Stew Leonard, Jr – President & CEO, Stew Leonard's

Moderator: Kristin Okesson – Senior Vice President/Market Manager, Connoisseur Media

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, December 16, 2026, 8:30 -10:30am
CT State Community College – Norwalk
188 Richards Ave E212, East Campus Conference Room
Norwalk, CT 06854

Speakers

- Cheryl DeVonish - CEO, CT State Community College – Norwalk
- Sandra Faioes – Interim Superintendent, Norwalk Public Schools
- Michele Conderino - Executive Director, Open Doors
- Marcus Paca – Workforce Development, Norwalk Hospital
- Marge Costa – Norwalk Education Foundation

Moderator: Dr. Kristina Testa Buzzee, Associate Dean of Faculty, CT State

ARTS & CULTURE

Wednesday, January 6th, 2027, 8:30 -10:30am
Factory Underground
16 Isaacs Street
Norwalk, CT 06850

Speakers

- Marc Alan – Marketing Director, Factory Underground
- Duvian Montoya – Executive Artistic Director & Co-Founder, The Norwalk Art Space
- Susan Gilgore – Executive Director, Lockwood Mathews Mansion
- Diane Jellerette - Executive Director, Norwalk Historical Society
- Kimberly Henrikson - Executive Director, Center for Contemporary Printmaking

Moderator: Huw Jones - Executive Director, Norwalk Symphony Orchestra

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Wednesday, January 20th, 2027, 8:30 – 10:30am
HMTX Headquarters
27 Seir Hill Road
Norwalk, CT 06850

Speakers

- Rick Taylor – Sr Director, Community Engagement
- Bob King – Vice President of Operations, King Industries
- Jessica Vonashek – Manresa Wilds

Moderator: Lissette Andino Director of Equity & Environmental Justice – Eversource

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Wednesday, February 10th, 2027, 8:30 -10:30am
Norwalk City Hall
Board of Education Conference room
125 East Ave, 3rd Floor
Norwalk, CT 06851

Speakers

- Mayor Barbara Smyth – City of Norwalk
- Member, Norwalk Common Council – Josh Goldstein
- Vinny Scicchitano – Republican Town Committee
- Bob Duff – State Senator, 25th District

Moderator: Harry Carey – Director of External Affairs, AT&T

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Wednesday, February 24th, 2027, 8:30 -10:30am
SONO Collection
100 N Water St
Norwalk, CT 06854

Speakers

- Clay Fowler – Chairman & CEO, Spinnaker Real Estate Partners LLC
- Jay Habansky – Chief of Economic & Community Development
- Carly Kramer – Community Planning Manager, Norwalk Redevelopment Agency
- Matthew Seebeck – Vice President, Brookfield Properties

Moderator: Alex Cross –Asst. Director of Business Development & Tourism, City of Norwalk

GRADUATION

Wednesday, March 10th, 2027, 8:30 -10:30am
The Norwalk Inn & Conference Center
99 East Ave, Patio
Norwalk, CT 06851

Certificates will be presented to graduating participants. An open invitation will be sent to all speakers throughout the program, and participants are able to bring one selected guest.