



June: Leadership Growth and Lasting Impact

*Cohort 16 Updates, Save the Date, Shaping the Next Decade,
Jason Waters Alumni Spotlight, Leadership Program Applications and More...*

Cohort 16: A Leadership Journey Realized



This month, Cohort 16 gathered at The Wingspread Retreat and Executive Conference Center, for their closing retreat, marking the culmination of nine months of an intentional leadership development journey. In this reflective and immersive setting, participants presented their Personal and Professional Strategic Plans and group projects, bringing forward both learning and growth as leaders.

The retreat created space for deeper reflection, connection, and learning, reinforcing each participant's development across leading self, leading others, leading in business, and leading across the community. The experience was both a milestone and a powerful reminder of the commitment required to lead with clarity, purpose, and impact. This growth is already taking shape, with 79% of Cohort 16 reporting leadership promotions or actively exploring new opportunities as a result of the program experience.

We invite you to follow us on [LinkedIn](#) to explore reflections shared by Cohort 16 participants following the retreat. These leaders offer a firsthand look at the depth of their experience and growth. As this chapter concludes, applications are open for Cohort 17 while we plan the fall completion ceremony for Cohort 16.

Thursday, October 8, 2026

**Save the date to join us at our Annual Community Meeting to
celebrate Cohort 16's program completion and learn more
about the future direction of AALAM.**

Shaping the Next Decade Together

AALAM is moving forward with real momentum, and we're grateful to everyone who completed the recent survey. Your insights directly shaped our organizational assessment, which we finalized on May 30, and they played a key role in refining our strategic choices for the next phase of work.

Over the past several weeks, our Strategy Taskforce has been digging into the data, sharpening our focus areas, and beginning to outline the action plans that will guide AALAM's next decade of impact. The themes you elevated — the strength of AALP, the need to build organizational capacity, and the importance of deeper alumni engagement and identity clarity — are now central to this work.

In the weeks ahead, we'll be engaging the Strategy Taskforce, Board members, and key partners as we continue shaping the plan ahead of the August 25 Board meeting. This next phase includes developing multi-year action plans, pressure-testing our priorities, and preparing for broader stakeholder conversations later this summer.

We remain on track to share the preliminary strategic plan with the broader community at the October Annual Meeting — and we're excited to bring you along every step of the way.



15 Years of AALP Impact, Told Through Alumni Voices

Jason Waters

Alumni Spotlight

This month, we highlight AALP alum, Jason Waters, and his impact as a successful entrepreneur across the Greater Milwaukee region.

Through AALP, Jason gained deeper insight into his leadership approach, using reflection and feedback to identify blind spots and lead with greater intention. The experience strengthened his ability to stay grounded and focused while navigating the complexities of his entrepreneurial endeavors.

Today, Jason is advancing a \$1.2 million mixed-use development while expanding his real estate portfolio and operations. He also contributes to community impact through his work on the finance committee of Movin' Out, supporting affordable housing initiatives across the region.



Read Jason's Spotlight [here](#).

AALAM Leadership Program

Apply Now for Cohort 17: Designed for Leaders Ready to Grow with Intention

Great leadership rarely develops by chance—it is shaped through intention, reflection, and the willingness to grow beyond what is comfortable.

Organizations today are navigating complexity, change, and increasing expectations of their leaders. The question is not whether leadership matters, but how intentionally it is being developed.

Our Leadership Program is designed for this moment.

As we prepare for the next cohort, we invite organizations to reflect on where leadership capacity can be strengthened and encourage alumni and partners to share this opportunity with leaders who are ready to grow personally and professionally towards delivering sustained business and community impact.

[Apply Now](#)

Honoring Juneteenth

Earlier this month, we joined our community in [recognizing Juneteenth](#), reflecting on its significance and the continued pursuit of freedom, equity, and opportunity.

In Milwaukee, the observance of *Freedom Day* carries deep meaning. As one of the longest-running and largest Juneteenth celebrations in the country, Milwaukee continues to play a meaningful role in highlighting freedom, culture, and community.

In keeping with our mission, Juneteenth is a poignant reminder of Milwaukee's responsibility to invest in leaders who continue to shape a more equitable organizations,

In Case You Missed It



May Newsletter

CEO Perspective, Leadership Program Applications, Antoine McDuffie Alumni Spotlight, Cohort Milestones, and More...

[Read More](#)



AALAM News

Stay connected to AALAM's work across Milwaukee and explore stories from our Leadership Program alumni.

[Read More](#)

Alumni: Share Your Career & Community Highlights

Stage time is leadership time, tell us about yours.

Help us spotlight the impact of AALP alumni. Share your career and community stories for a chance to be highlighted across the AALAM network. [Complete the short form](#) on our website to get started.

info@aalamilwaukee.org



AALAM | 301 W. Wisconsin Ave Suite 220 | Milwaukee, WI 53203 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!