



2026 Business Leadership Forum December 8 – 10, 2026 | St. Louis, MO

An leadership development experience for professionals preparing for senior leadership responsibilities within member companies and the association.

The Opportunity

The Business Leadership Forum brings together high-potential professionals on the path to senior executive leadership across the grain and feed industry to develop the skills, perspectives, and relationships needed to lead with greater impact.

Participants will engage with peers who share a common commitment to leadership growth and industry involvement. Through meaningful conversations, networking opportunities, and a dedicated leadership workshop, participants will gain new perspectives, expand their professional network, and begin building relationships with the individuals who will help shape the future of the industry.

For NGFA member companies, the forum is an investment in the emerging executives who are preparing for greater responsibility within their organizations and may one day serve as NGFA committee chairs, Board members, Executive Committee members, and trusted industry representatives.

Participant Takeaways

Build relationships with future industry leaders

Connect with a select group of peers from across NGFA member companies who are on similar leadership paths.

Strengthen leadership capabilities

Participate in a focused workshop designed to encourage reflection, discussion, and growth as a leader.

Expand industry perspective

Gain insight into the challenges, opportunities, and priorities shaping the future of the grain and feed industry.

Develop connections that last

Create meaningful relationships with peers who may become future collaborators, partners, and leaders within NGFA.

Who Should Apply?

Ideal participants are individuals who:

- Are being developed to lead business units, shape strategy, and ultimately serve as senior executives.
- Are interested in building relationships with peers and leaders across the grain and feed industry.
- Are likely to represent their organizations in future NGFA leadership roles, including committee participation, Board service, Executive Committee involvement, or other opportunities to advance the industry.

The 2026 Forum Experience

The Business Leadership Forum will be integrated into the CEC 2026 conference experience, providing participants with dedicated opportunities to connect throughout the event.

Tuesday December 8:

A networking lunch to introduce participants and begin building connections and a four-hour workshop focused on leadership development and peer engagement, facilitated by current NGFA executive industry leadership and People Spark Consulting.

Throughout the Conference:

Opportunities to continue conversations and build relationships with industry peers.

Thursday December 10:

A closing breakfast on the final day of the conference to reconnect with fellow participants and reflect on the experience.

Workshop Facilitators:

- **Mike Seyfert**, President & CEO, National Grain and Feed Association
- **Kristen Ireland**, Co-Founder, People Spark Consulting
- **Executive industry leadership** announced soon!
 - Prior executive industry leadership includes:
 - Greg Beck, Senior Vice President, CGB Enterprises (ret.), former NGFA Chairman of the Board, former NGFA Executive Committee member
 - JoAnn Brouillette, Managing Partner, Demeter LP, former NGFA Chairman of the Board, NGFA Executive Committee member
 - Paul Katovich, CEO, Highline Grain Growers Inc., NGFA Executive Committee member
 - Jason Klootwyk, CEO, Agtegra Cooperative, Second Vice Chairman, NGFA Board, Executive Committee member

Application Information:

Individuals may nominate themselves or may be nominated by someone else within their company. Applicants should demonstrate leadership potential, a commitment to professional growth, and an interest in contributing to the future success of their company, the association, and the grain and feed industry.

Application: [Link](#)

Application Deadline: On or before November 13, 2026, with rolling selection notification

Questions: [Rebecca Grubbs](#)

Nominate yourself or a future leader. Invest in the people who will shape your company, NGFA, and the grain and feed industry for years to come.

