

IMPACT OF NEXUS

"In NEXUS I have found a glimpse into the future of Memphis, with people of diverse backgrounds combining their collective wisdom and talents for the betterment of the community. My mentor provided me with his unique point of view which prompted me to look at issues outside of parameters based solely on my past experiences."

~**Jeb Fields - Protégé / Vice President / Commercial Advisors, LLC**

"Encouraging the development of new, capable and principled leaders for our city is critical for Memphis to thrive and be all that it can be. NEXUS has given me the opportunity to share some of my experiences while at the same time become encouraged myself about the potential class of rising leaders in the community. Developing a relationship with my protégé has been a privilege and a joy."

~**Barbara Prescott - Mentor / Vice President, Consultant & Licensed Professional Counselor / Allie Prescott & Partners**

"I've had the opportunity to participate in NEXUS as both a protégé and a mentor, and both experiences have challenged me personally and professionally. The sessions are timely and applicable, and the personal interaction provides a type of "support group" that is often missing within the traditional business community."

~**Sally Pace - Mentor and Past Protégé / Director of MemphisConnect**



"I was a protégé in the very first year NEXUS was introduced. Not only did I meet a great mentor but I was exposed to the community. I have built a network for which I am always indebted to NEXUS."

~**Sridhar Sunkara - Past Protégé / Director Information Systems / Center City Commission**

KEYS TO NEXUS:

- **A mentor-driven program**, whereby the mentors commit to participate in the monthly sessions, to be trained in leadership alongside their protégé and to meet with their protégé once per month informally outside of the monthly sessions, arranged at the convenience of both.
- **Protégé recruitment** occurs through pre-existing mentor relationships or through MPACT Memphis. Both mentor and protégé attend an opening retreat and are required to attend at least seven of the nine monthly sessions.
- **Attend the opening retreat** which focuses on "Your Leadership Strengths." The opening retreat is said to be a highlight of the program and gives participants an opportunity to meet and connect.
- **Nine monthly interactive teaching sessions** led by several exceptional leaders from within the Memphis community and national executive mentor Bobb Biehl, founder of Masterplanning International.
- **A reasonable cost**, subsidized by corporate sponsors and private donations. The program fee is \$500 for mentors and protégés, and includes an opening retreat, curriculum materials and monthly dinner sessions. Scholarships are available through the Wilson Foundation Scholarship Fund.
- **A proven curriculum**, accredited through the University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University, covers the key elements every leader must master: Asking, Building, Communicating, Dreaming, Ethical Decision Making, Focusing, Funding, Growing, Leading Through Change, Mentoring, Motivating and Planning.

"I am convinced that mentoring is the most critical thing we can do today to prepare and protect the next generation of leaders."

~**Bobb Biehl - Executive Mentor / Masterplanning Group & NEXUS Speaker**

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www.nexusleaders.org

NEXUS
A PROVEN EXPERIENCE IN LEADERSHIP

Encouraging & Equipping the
Next Generation of Community Leaders
through Proven Mentor Coaching & Teaching

www.nexusleaders.org

OVERVIEW

The program is called NEXUS:

A Proven Experience in Leadership, and it is impacting individuals and our city.

The need to encourage and equip the next generation of community leaders in Memphis is obvious to those who know our city best. Experienced leaders understand that leadership development is fundamental to ensure the positive growth and economic security of our community.

Second Presbyterian Church and MPACT Memphis jointly founded NEXUS in 2003 as a vehicle for the development and improvement of leadership skills, as well as a means for participants to make valuable connections with leaders in the Memphis community.

This initiative has been successful in creating a forum for interaction across religious, racial, and gender lines based on the common interests of leadership development and community improvement. NEXUS has trained almost 400 current and emerging leaders positioned to build a stronger Memphis community.

NEXUS is unique in that it seeks to duplicate the experienced leader and develop the young, emerging leader through mentorship and relationship. The mentor-protégé relationship is the key component of the NEXUS experience. NEXUS provides a forum where developing leaders can learn proven leadership skills in a mutually challenging environment from top-flight coaches and mentors. It is through this mentor-protégé relationship that NEXUS seeks to cultivate and duplicate principle-centered leaders to build a better Memphis.

"NEXUS has been a great experience in meeting other professionals whose path I may not otherwise cross. It has been a wonderful way to familiarize myself with others that are focused on improving Memphis in their respective areas of focus."

~Mark H. Yancy - Protégé / Major Gifts Coordinator / Methodist Healthcare Foundation

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What is the time commitment for NEXUS?

Approximately four to five hours each month from August - May.

- A dinner and teaching session from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., one Thursday night a month from September - May.
- A one-on-one informal meeting, usually over coffee or a meal, arranged at the convenience of both the mentor and protégé. The purpose of this time is to pursue leadership mentoring goals agreed upon by the two.
- Assigned reading to include no more than three books and various timely articles.
- An annual overnight retreat from Friday evening through Saturday afternoon to kick-off the NEXUS experience each fall.

Q: How are mentors recruited for NEXUS?

- Mentors are recruited each spring by invitation.
- The NEXUS Board approves a list of mentors. The committee compiles the list from its knowledge of area leaders and from recommendations made by current NEXUS mentors and protégés as well as alumni.
- The selection criterion, set by the NEXUS Board, includes that potential mentors be leaders the committee would like to see "duplicated" in our community.

Q: How are protégés recruited for NEXUS?

Protégés are recruited three ways:

- A mentor may recruit his or her protégé from a pre-existing relationship.
- MPACT Memphis, a co-sponsor of NEXUS and a Memphis leadership organization for individuals 40 and under, recruits its members who would like to be matched with a mentor.
- NEXUS Alumni and Board members may suggest potential protégés for participation in the program.

"NEXUS is looking for mentors who are committed to our community and are willing to invest in its future."

~Sandy Willson / Senior Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church / Co-Founder of NEXUS

Q: How are protégés and mentors paired for the program?

The NEXUS Board and MPACT Memphis utilize detailed questionnaires, as well as personal insight and relationships, to pair mentors and protégés together in complementary relationships.

Q: What is the cost to participate?

- The program tuition is \$500 for both mentors and protégés and covers the costs of the overnight retreat, curriculum materials, monthly dinners and closing banquet. Corporate sponsors, private donations and grants subsidize NEXUS' expenses so that the program may be offered at a reasonable cost to individual participants.
- All participants, both mentors and protégés, must pay tuition.
- Area companies and organizations offer tuition reimbursement for their employees and members.
- Tuition scholarships are available to both mentors and protégés.

Q: When is tuition due and are scholarships available for mentors and protégés?

- Tuition in full or a confirmed payment plan is due in August before the fall term begins.
- Tuition scholarships are available for both mentors and protégés through the Wilson Foundation.
- Although scholarships are available, every participant is required to make at least a \$100 personal or corporate financial commitment. Prior experience proves that participants' sense of investment, ownership and accountability are essential to the program's success. NEXUS does not disqualify participants for financial reasons.
- A committee reviews scholarship and grant requests.

Q: How do I obtain graduate level credit for NEXUS?

Forms from the University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University are available in the NEXUS office for this proven, accredited curriculum. NEXUS participants work with the Dean of the University College for this graduate school offering.

"As a mentor, I don't know of many things more worthwhile and powerful than the opportunity to make a meaningful investment in someone's life."

~Kem Wilson - Mentor / Principal / Kemmons Wilson Companies



NEXUS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sandy Willson / Chairman / Senior Pastor / Second Presbyterian Church

James Armfield / President / Memphis Athletic Ministries

Michelle Blount / Senior Vice President / Iberia Bank

Richard Bourland / Owner / Mid South Bunk Beds

Susie Craft / Senior Counsel / SunTrust Bank

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Bathsheba T. Sams / Director / Human Resources / International Paper

Jonathan Watkins / Assistant Administrator / Methodist North Hospital

Roby Williams / President / Black Business Association of Memphis

Kem Wilson / Principal / Kemmons Wilson Companies

Our Mission

To encourage and equip the next generation of community leaders through proven mentor coaching and teaching.

Our Vision

To build a stronger Memphis community through the duplication of principle-centered leaders and become a prototype for other communities.

Visit NEXUS online at www.nexusleaders.org to view our **PAST MENTORS 2004-2011** and a **PAST SPEAKERS** list.

NEXUS 2012 **SPEAKERS & SESSIONS**

- August 19 & 20, 2011** **Opening Retreat** Victory Ranch / Bolivar, Tenn.
- September 8, 2011** **Memphis**
Larry Jensen / President / CEO /
Commercial Advisors, LLC /
James Armfield / President / Memphis Athletic Ministries /
- October 13, 2011** **Leading Through Change**
Martha L. Perine Beard / Senior Branch Executive /
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis of the Memphis Region /
- November 3, 2011** **Asking**
Bobb Biehl / Executive Mentor / Masterplanning Group /
- December 1, 2011** **Planning**
George M. Little / Chief Administrative Officer /
City of Memphis
- January 12, 2012** **PANEL – Funding**
Dean Deyo / President / Memphis Music Foundation
Robert Fockler / President / Community Foundation of
Greater Memphis
Nancy Coe / Financial Advisor / Vice-President /
Global Wealth Management / Morgan Stanley Smith Barney
- February 2, 2012** **Focusing & Communicating**
Gayle S. Rose / CEO / Electronic Vaulting Services, LLC
- March 1, 2012** **Dreaming**
Robert B. Carter / Executive Vice President /
Chief Information Officer / FedEx Corporation
- April 12, 2012** **Ethical Decision Making**
William C. Rhodes, III / Chairman / President / CEO /
AutoZone
- May 3, 2012** **Motivating – Graduation**
Josh Pastner / Head Basketball Coach /
University of Memphis