



**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**SARASOTA CHAMBER'S ADULT LEADERSHIP SARASOTA PROGRAM  
ANNOUNCES CLASS OF 2027 PARTICIPANTS**

SARASOTA, FL (August 7, 2026)—Leadership Sarasota, a program of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, is excited to welcome the Leadership Class of 2027 — a diverse and dynamic group of professionals committed to making a lasting impact in our region.



Gulfside Bank is proud to announce that Matt Hess, Vice President & Commercial Relationship Manager, has been selected to join this year's class, representing a strong commitment to leadership, community engagement, and professional excellence. The 2027 class features leaders from across industries, each bringing their own unique experience, insight, and drive to help shape Sarasota's future.

Chosen through a competitive selection process, the members of the 2027 Leadership Class have demonstrated exceptional achievements and a deep dedication to community development, innovation, and civic leadership. These individuals are poised to contribute meaningfully to the continued growth and vitality of Sarasota and the surrounding region.

"We are excited to welcome these exceptional individuals to the 2027 Leadership Class," said Heather Kasten, President & CEO of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, a 2014 graduate of Leadership Sarasota and 2023 graduate of Leadership Florida. "Their dedication, diverse expertise, and passion for community betterment make us confident they will play a pivotal role in shaping Sarasota's future."

"I look forward to learning more about Sarasota and connecting with other leaders," shares Hess.

Participation in Leadership Sarasota offers a one-of-a-kind opportunity to gain deeper insight into local issues, build lasting relationships with fellow leaders, and strengthen the skills needed to drive positive change across the region.

**ABOUT LEADERSHIP SARASOTA**

Leadership Sarasota, a program of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, offers an opportunity for those enthusiastic about and interested in the leadership and welfare of our community to go behind the scenes and see "how things work". It is a chance to meet new people, make solid life-long friendships, and experience networking opportunities that might



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not otherwise be available. For more information, please visit [sarasotachamber.com/leadership-sarasota](http://sarasotachamber.com/leadership-sarasota).

### ABOUT GULFSIDE BANK

Gulfside Bank is a full-service community bank in Sarasota, Florida, offering a variety of retail, commercial and private banking services. With deep roots in the community, Gulfside Bank is locally owned and managed, and is committed to building long-lasting relationships with its clients, no matter how big or how small. For more information, visit them online at [gulfsidebank.com](http://gulfsidebank.com).

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