



March 2025

Dear Business Owner or Manager:

The Opelika Chamber of Commerce is gearing up for its 2025-2026 class of 20 Under 40. We are looking for 20 outstanding people under the age of 40 who live in Opelika, love Opelika, and have a vested interest in shaping the direction of this city's future. The 20 Under 40 Program is dedicated to developing leaders by providing opportunities:

- 1) To learn about community and government affairs while giving back to the community through a class service project.
- 2) To develop professionally through training and skill-based learning initiatives.
- 3) To engage and connect, as well as forge relationships with local business and organization leaders.

To apply for the 20 Under 40 program, an applicant must live in Opelika, be under the age of 40, and pay the tuition cost of \$500.00. In addition, applicants must be able to attend the following events and programs from August 2025 to May 2026:

- Saturday, August 2nd, 2025 – Full Day Orientation Retreat (9:00am to 4:00pm)
- Class Sessions begin in August and will be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 4:00 pm - 6:30 pm.
- Hold an active role in class service project
- Saturday, January 3rd, 2026 – Full Day Winter Retreat (9:00am to 4:00pm)
- Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 – Graduation from Program (6:00pm to 8:00pm)

We realize this a significant time commitment, so we appreciate your commitment to your employee's development in allowing their participation. Please know that we are also flexible, and participants are allowed to miss up to three sessions should an emergency issue arise. The 20 Under 40 Program is a great opportunity for your employee as it will enhance their growth as a leader and increase their commitment to our community. It will also be an easy opportunity to advertise your business by your employee being recognized as a participant on the Opelika Chamber website and local media outlets. We hope that you will allow them to have this time away from your company to participate and we ask that you please consider taking the financial burden away by sponsoring the program fee of \$500.00 for your employee.

Sincerely,

Janataka Holmes,
20 Under 40 Board Chair President, Opelika Chamber of Commerce