

# Being ATHENA™

## Lakeland Chamber Being ATHENA™ 2026 Cohort



*As an extension of our existing affiliation with ATHENA International + the ATHENA Leadership Award Program, the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce Cohort 2 of its newest leadership development program, Being ATHENA™, launching August 12, 2026.*

### About the Program

The Being ATHENA™ Leadership Participants Experience Participants embark on a profound journey of self-discovery, acquiring knowledge, engaging in self-reflection, and fostering meaningful relationships within the alumni community. Remarkable women experience substantial growth in self-understanding, leading to unprecedented levels of achievement and success. Through the program, they develop newfound confidence, empowering their inner self-advocate. Their accomplishments are recognized and rewarded with promotions, higher salaries, additional responsibilities, and recognition.

### Key Components

- An in-depth behavior assessment including motivational needs by Predictive Index™
  - A personalized action plan for achieving their leadership goals
  - Successful negotiations for salary increases, promotions, and increased responsibilities
- A supportive space and atmosphere for sharing career challenges and insights
- A greater sense of self, confidence, and understanding of their unique leadership style
  - Meaningful new relationships within the alumni community

### Program Cost

Program Fee: \$1,000 / participant (due at registration)  
Fees must be paid via the ATHENA international website.  
Creation of a username and password will be required.

### Location

Classes will be held at the Florida United Methodist Conference Offices (450 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave., Lakeland, FL, 33815). Graduation ceremony will be held during The ATHENA Awards at Haus820 on October 7.

### Program Dates & Attendance Requirements

**Wed., August 12, 2026**  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Session 1

**Wed., August 26, 2026**  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Session 2

**Wed., September 9, 2026**  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Session 3

**Wed., September 23, 2026**  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Session 4

**Wed., October 7, 2026**  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Session 5

**Wed., October 7, 2026**  
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Graduation during ATHENA Awards

*Note: Attendance at all sessions is recommended, although you may be absent from one session & still qualify to receive your completion certificate.*

### How to Register

The Lakeland Chamber Being ATHENA™ 2026 cohort is limited to the first registered 30 participants. Registration must be completed through the ATHENA International platform. Complete registration instructions can be found on Michelle Ledford Consulting's website by scanning the QR code. You will be further required to create an account on the ATHENA International website to complete the process.





## Meet Your Facilitator



READ BIO

**Michelle Ledford**  
CEO & Founder  
Michelle Ledford Consulting



## Being ATHENA™ Key Benefits to Companies & Community Organizations

✓ Operationalize Behavioral Insights: Results from the Predictive Index™ behavioral assessments help maximize performance by empowering teams to make more data-driven decisions about people, optimize team dynamics and satisfaction, and predict exceptional results.

✓ A Strong Leadership Pipeline: Being ATHENA helps identify and develop leadership capabilities in all employees within the organization. By investing in their development, companies can build a strong pipeline of empowered and inclusive leaders who are prepared to drive the organization's success into the future.

✓ Increased Employee Engagement and Retention: Being ATHENA's holistic approach to professional growth and development increases confidence, engagement, and satisfaction. These employees are more likely to feel valued and invested in their careers, leading to higher retention rates and lower turnover costs for the company.

✓ Improved Organizational Performance: Effective leadership is essential for achieving business objectives. Being ATHENA equips employees with the skills, knowledge, and empathetic tools they need to lead teams, make strategic decisions, and drive results while mentoring the next generation of leaders.

✓ Fostering a Culture of Continuous Learning and Development: In a professional culture that values learning, growth, and development, employees are more likely to embrace new challenges, seek out more responsibility, and continuously improve their skills and capabilities. Being ATHENA helps companies stay agile, innovative, and competitive in a rapidly changing business environment.

✓ Enhancing Succession Planning and Risk Management: By developing a diverse pool of talented leaders, companies mitigate risks associated with leadership transitions, succession gaps, and unexpected departures.

✓ Building a Positive Employer Brand: Current and prospective employees value employers committed to investing in their professional development and growth. This enhances the company's employer brand, making it more attractive to top talent.

✓ Driving Innovation and Adaptability: Strong leadership is essential for cultivating innovation and driving organizational change. Being ATHENA teaches the skills and mindset leaders need to challenge the status quo, think creatively, and adapt to new challenges, enabling companies to stay ahead of the curve.



BEING ATHENA™

LAKELAND CHAMBER IN COLLABORATION WITH  
MICHELLE LEDFORD CONSULTING