Think Week

A unique opportunity to reflect on your business — and yourself

Join us for a special leadership program that combines personal reflection time with cutting-edge business content — and the opportunity to spend time with other second-stage entrepreneurs. Think Week enables business leaders to step away from daily distractions, take advantage of Big Rock Valley’s serene setting and think deeply about their businesses.

This is your chance to:

• Access experts on sales and marketing, leadership, financial literacy, strategy and value chain analysis in one-on-one discussions.

• Brainstorm with other second-stage leaders around the campfire.

• Spend time on guided and self-guided reflection, including yoga and mindfulness practices.

• Learn more about Big Rock Valley’s conservation best practices.

• Enjoy awesome cuisine, courtesy of Chef Jose Ruiz and our amazing Guest Services Team.

And here’s the best part: It’s all about you. Use this time as you wish. You can attend all or none of the activities. Think Week (okay, it’s really four days and three nights) is your chance to step back, clear your head and think about the direction of both your business and personal life in a distraction-free environment.

Logistics: Think Week is held at Big Rock Valley, the foundation’s 2,000-acre learning campus in southwest Michigan. The program typically begins at 5 p.m. on the first day and wraps up at noon on the fourth day.

Cost: $1,000 per participant, which includes facilitation, food and lodgings.

Contact info: To register or get more info, email Rita Phillips at Rita@lowe.org.
Feedback from participants

Active learning
“I came to Think Week with my husband and our business partner, and it was a great time for us as a team. I had been to a previous retreat at the foundation — and now they could see why I was so fired up. We attended every session and had a variety of takeaways, such as being able to look at our business through different lenses. One thing I appreciate is the active learning at the foundation’s retreats. You aren’t told what the answers are, you discover them on your own.

“People don’t realize how much value the foundation offers, from its beautiful property to its educational curriculum. When it comes to significant resources, Michigan has the Great Lakes and the Edward Lowe Foundation — these are the two best things in our state!”

— Patti Eisenbraun, co-founder of Brown Iron Brewhouse in Washington, Michigan

Quality interaction
“I’ve been wishing there was something like Think Week for a long time. It was great to have downtime — along with some structure — to engage in some deep thinking. I was able to work on my vision for the next year, which was one of my goals. Although I didn’t know the other participants before I arrived, it was a great group and interacting with them was very helpful. In addition, Dino is a great facilitator and the foundation’s staff is terrific.”

— Christen Carter, founder of Busy Beaver Buttons in Chicago

Inspirational environment
“There are lots of small-business and industry venues that I could go to, but the Edward Lowe Foundation’s narrow focus on second stage is what resonates with me. Think Week helped me and my partner work on our business instead of in it.

“It’s a little overwhelming when every hour of your day is planned, and one of the things I appreciated about Think Week were the blocks of downtime, which enabled us to figure out some different things within our business. There’s nothing like sitting in an orange caboose in the middle of the woods to get your inspirational juices flowing.”

— Bryan Croft, president and CEO of Holmes Custom in Jacksonville, Florida

Critical insights
“I came to Think Week with my business partner, and we both were extremely happy with the outcome. In fact, I don’t think I would have gotten nearly as much out of it if I attended by myself. We had a long list of what we wanted to accomplish, and the sessions brought up more things and gave us additional perspectives on what we wanted to discuss.

“We had business takeaways from almost every session, and the one-on-one time with experts was great. I also appreciated the downtime and had some critical personal revelations — one of the most beneficial things I have experienced all year. I’m completely sold on the experience, and we definitely would come back for another Think Week. It’s not something you do just once.”

— Matt Downey, founder of Freshwater Digital in Grand Rapids, Michigan