The Postsecondary National Policy Institute’s
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (LDP)
for Education Policy Leaders

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”
– John Quincy Adams

WHAT IS THE LDP AND WHY WAS IT CREATED?

Launched in 2018, PNPI’s Leadership Development Program (LDP) is a six-month professional development opportunity for leaders in the federal education policy space. Premised on the belief that leadership can be developed, strong leaders impact organizational health, and strong sectors are led by strong organizations, the LDP provides leaders with the skills and community needed to further advance their careers.

WHO HAS THE LDP BEEN CREATED FOR?

Senior decision makers in organizations focused on federal education policy (e.g., Presidents/CEOs, VPs, Directors). Participants must have a minimum of five years of experience in a decision-making role. Preference will be given to individuals in the nonprofit and/or government space. Individuals in the for-profit space will be considered if their organization has a public-facing mission.

WHAT CAN PARTICIPANTS EXPECT TO GET OUT OF THE LDP?

• An opportunity to grow and enhance their leadership abilities;
• Tools to increase their organization’s health (access to knowledge and resources);
• Entree into a community of practice with other decision makers/leadership peers in the education policy space; and
• Peer coaching.
WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM CONSIST OF?

The LDP consists of six one-day leadership development workshops over six months. Workshops focus on team building, decision-making, deliberate creativity, facilitating meetings and events, executive presence, and how to tell your organization’s story. Morning and early-afternoon workshops are followed by time spent in reflective practice circles through which real-life, real-time challenges and opportunities are explored in smaller groups.

HOW DO I APPLY TO THE PROGRAM?

Applicants must fill out an application for admission, provide a current CV or resume, submit a personal essay, and provide one reference. Applications are due by 5pm ET on Monday, June 17th. For an application and complete application instructions please visit http://pnpi.org/ldp/.

HOW DO I KNOW IF I QUALIFY AS A DECISION MAKER FOR PURPOSES OF THE LDP?

A decision maker (DM) is an individual who operates at an executive level in their current organization. DMs should be one of the primary decision makers in their organization in at least three of the following areas: strategic planning, creation and/or carrying out of mission/vision, finances, HR/hiring, general compliance (including tax/IRS), board governance, and fundraising.

HOW MUCH DOES THE PROGRAM COST?

The fee for participants in the non-profit or government sectors is $1,500. The fee for all other participants is $2,000. Registration fees are assessed after acceptance into the program and must be paid within two weeks of acceptance to reserve a spot in the LDP.

WILL SCHOLARSHIPS BE OFFERED TO ATTEND?

One scholarship covering the cost of registration will be awarded to an individual in the non-profit or government sector whose organization specializes in higher education policy. To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must submit an additional essay that addresses why the registration fee is a financial hardship to them and their organization.

WHAT IS THE ATTENDANCE POLICY?

Individuals must attend a minimum of five sessions to have access to the class portal and leadership network after program completion. To participate, all participants must also agree to participate in a one-on-one program assessment interview after completion of the course. Failure to do so will also result in loss of access to the class portal and network.
WHEN IS THE PROGRAM BEING HELD?

The program will meet all day on six Fridays over six months. Class dates are:

- Friday, September 27, 2019
- Friday, October 18, 2019
- Friday, November 8, 2019
- Friday, December 6, 2019
- Friday, January 10, 2020
- Friday, February 7, 2020

 Applicants will also be required to attend a morning orientation session on September 6th or 13th.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE PROGRAM ENDS?

Participants will have continued access to program resources, access to continued programming at low or no cost, and an opportunity to come together and network with other education policy professionals.

CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS?

A list of the workshops and presenters are below. Additional information on individual workshops can be found here and bios on the facilitators are accessible here.

September 27, 2019  Developing Effective Teams with Rae Ringel
October 18, 2019  Decision-Making & Problem-Solving with Doug Hensch
November 8, 2019  Deliberate Creativity: How to Innovate on Demand with Amy Climer
December 6, 2019  Facilitating Better Meetings & Events with Rae Ringel
January 10, 2020  Develop Your Presentation Skills & Executive Presence with Christine Clapp
February 7, 2020  Telling Your Organizational Story with Rae Ringel

WHAT HAVE FORMER PARTICIPANTS SAID ABOUT THE PROGRAM?

“The PNPI Leadership Development Program is an invaluable tool for any higher education leader that wants to improve the management of their organization. In just a few weeks, I learned new skills around creativity, teamwork, decision-making, and executive presence that will last a lifetime. It’s a can’t-miss opportunity for anyone looking to succeed and advance in their current career.” –James Bergeron, President, National Council of Higher Education Resources.

“The LDP was a great opportunity to learn concrete skills to make me a better leader, strategic thinker, and boss. Activities were intentionally structured to apply them to real work challenges so it all felt very relevant to my job. I also appreciated building bonds and a cohort with other leaders in this space. Seeing how similar our challenges and successes were can make being a leader in postsecondary policy feel much less isolating.” -Ben Miller, Vice President, Postsecondary Education, Center for American Progress
“PNPI’s Leadership Development Program was a transformative experience for me. The program helped hone some of my leadership skills while venturing into totally new territory with others. The focus on developing effective teams was particularly helpful as my team worked through a reset period, and it aligned well with an already planned retreat that occurred simultaneously. As a result, we have come away with more effective and meaningful team meetings. Moreover, the focus on deliberate creativity provided useful tips and processes for ensuring creativity is a central part of our policy work, and not just when it is obvious to include it. Plus, I now have a network of other higher education leaders in my cohort who I call friends and can call upon for peer mentoring, support, and advice.” -Amy Smith, Policy Advisor, Arnold & Porter.

“LDP was a fantastic experience and worth every minute of my (scarce) time. I was very lucky to have the opportunity to participate.”– Kevin James, Founder & CEO, Better Future Forward.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

If you have additional questions please email us at pnpi@pnpi.org.