Executive Leadership Academy 2023–2024

A leadership development program to prepare college and university vice presidents and cabinet-level officers for presidencies and other senior executive positions

OPENING SEMINAR: June 26–28, 2023
Washington, DC

CLOSING SEMINAR: June 10–12, 2024
Washington, DC

CIC NOMINATION DEADLINE: Friday, January 27, 2023
5:00 p.m. EST

www.cic.edu/ExecutiveLeadershipAcademy
The president’s role, as well as that of other senior administrators, has changed. It now requires an understanding of all aspects of the institution—from enrollment to endowment management and from governmental to alumni relations—not to mention inclusion and belonging, athletics, fundraising, marketing, student affairs, strategic planning, and financial management. The president’s necessary expertise also has expanded beyond institutional borders, to include regulatory and legislative issues and crisis communications. Further, it is more essential than ever that the pipeline of senior leaders prepares a diverse range of candidates from all backgrounds to succeed. ELA develops the wide-ranging skills that new presidents and senior executives will need to meet the challenges of today’s educational environment and serve today’s students.

“Developing the Next Generation of Presidents

The Executive Leadership Academy (ELA) is a yearlong program cosponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), and the American Academic Leadership Institute (AALI) to prepare experienced provosts and vice presidents to move to positions of greater responsibility, including presidencies. Participants will acquire knowledge, skills, and experiences germane to the responsibilities and activities central to the work of a president or other senior-level leader. The program assumes that participants will remain in their current positions throughout the program.

“The ELA, hosted by CIC, was a transformational professional experience for me—it was one of the most pivotal career development opportunities in my life thus far. The Academy allowed my cohort to engage with colleagues from across the nation who were focused on advancing higher education beyond the 21st century.”

—Wayne Knox
ELA 2017–2018
Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Huston-Tillotson University

Program

The program consists of:

- Two seminars in Washington, DC, (June 26–28, 2023, and June 10–12, 2024) led by current and former presidents as well as specialists in key areas;

- A highly individualized Professional Experience Plan (PEP) designed to fill gaps in the participant’s expertise and experience;
• Mentorship by both the participant’s current president and the program director;
• Individualized executive coaching; and
• Peer-to-peer participant-led webinars, regional gatherings, and activities.

Program Leadership

Linda Bleicken, president of AALI and president emerita of Armstrong State University, will direct this year’s program. In the coming year, AALI will celebrate more than five years of her leadership and welcome her successor.

Participants

Individuals currently serving in cabinet-level positions in any division of their institution are eligible to participate. Approximately 35 participants will be selected for the 2023–2024 cohort—half from CIC member institutions and half from AASCU institutions.

Costs

The program fee for the 2023–2024 academic year is $2,950. This fee includes all program costs as well as meals during the two seminars. The participants or their institutions are responsible for travel and lodging expenses.

Fellowships Available

With generous support from AALI, CIC offers fellowships to encourage broad and representative participation in ELA. Preference is given to nominees from under-resourced institutions that otherwise might be unable to support their participation. Nominators should indicate whether they wish a nominee to be considered for a Fellowship.

The ELA is generously supported by AALI and Academic Search.

“There are many unknowns as it relates to the process of pursuing an advanced position in higher education and this program truly addressed the process from application, interviewing, on-boarding, and negotiation/communication in the role.”

Amy Clark
ELA 2021–2022
Vice President for Academic Affairs, Nebraska Methodist College

“For me, hearing candid accounts of the experiences of my colleagues, both about present challenges and about goals and planning for the future, was extremely valuable. Their stories and insights enhanced my ability to do my current work during these challenging times.”

J. Walter Sterling
ELA 2021–2022
Dean of the College, St. John’s College (NM)
Nomination

Nomination materials for individuals from CIC member institutions must be submitted on the CIC website at www.cic.edu/ExecutiveLeadershipAcademy.

Nominations must come from the president to whom the nominee reports and indicate the president’s commitment to serve during 2023–2024 as a mentor. Individuals who wish to be nominated should discuss the opportunity with the president to request nomination.

The nomination packet should consist of the following items:

- A nomination form, available at www.cic.edu/ExecutiveLeadershipAcademy;
- The nominee’s curriculum vitae;
- A letter of nomination; and
- A statement by the candidate explaining his or her interest in and potential for a presidency or other senior position in higher education.

See the website for full details about the nomination process: www.cic.edu/ExecutiveLeadershipAcademy.

Nomination Deadline

Nominations packets are due by Friday, January 27, 2023, 5:00 p.m. EST. Selection of participants will be announced by February 24, 2023.

Additional Information

For questions about the process and logistics, contact Alana Cassidy at acassidy@ cic.edu or (202) 552-8977. For questions about program content, contact Linda Bleicken, president, AALI, at linda@ americanali.org or (202) 263-7488.