How are leaders selected to participate in the Executive Leadership Academy?

Leaders may apply from school districts, charter school organizations, non-profit organizations, government agencies, and the private sector. Qualities of leader applicants include: high performance, active engagement in their profession, passion and commitment to excellence, and innovative thinking and problem-solving. Interested leaders must complete a written application, which includes three short answer responses. Supervisors must complete a Leadership Behavior Grid. Both the application and the Leadership Behavior Grid must be submitted by the applicant to The Public Education Foundation before the due date. Review committees at The Foundation and partner school districts carefully screen submitted items for all applicants in order to select a cohort of approximately 35 executive leaders.

What is my total time commitment to the program?

The Executive Leadership Academy is held one Wednesday afternoon (4:30pm – 7pm), Thursday (4:30pm – 7:00pm), Friday (8am – 4:30pm) and Saturday (8am – 12:00pm) each month. Course sessions are held monthly from September through May during the school year. The Completion Ceremony is an evening event held in August. The total duration of the program will not exceed 12 months.

Will I receive credit for participating in the Academy?

Yes, leaders selected to participate in the Academy may receive up to 15 hours per month toward licensure recertification by the Nevada Department of Education. In addition, the Academy is a proud partner with Georgetown University. Leaders who complete the program may receive a Certificate in Education Leadership and Management from the University’s McCourt School of Public Policy. Finally, Clark County School District participants will accrue up to 60 hours toward Administrative Step Advancement.

Does the program have any out-of-pocket expenses for leaders?

Enrollment fees are paid, in part, by school districts, charter schools, and employers. To a greater extent, The Public Education Foundation underwrites these fees from the support of donors and grantors from the public and private sectors. The only out-of-pocket expenses for leaders may include tuition fees for the Georgetown University certificate program, but these fees may also be paid for by districts, schools or departments.

What is the Capstone Project?

Leaders who participate in the Academy must complete a capstone project, which enables participants to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during the Academy. Capstone projects are grounded in current challenges or problems of practice in Nevada public education, and are
completed in small teams of 3-5 leaders. Participants work on various components of the capstone project throughout the Academy, and the final project deliverables are completed by May.

**How is the Executive Leadership Academy different from other programs?**

The Academy recognizes that school and system leaders have extensive training and skills in curriculum, supervision, evaluation and instruction. However, in order to lead schools and systems in the 21st century, successful leaders must learn more about business concepts such as organizational change, resource allocations and efficiencies, human capital development, disruptive innovation, and strategic thinking. The Academy brings national all-star faculty who are experts in these much-needed course sessions. In addition, the Academy invites a business or community leader from Nevada to speak with participants during each course session. This enables participants to expand their professional networks across Nevada, while learning from some of our state’s most successful leaders. Finally, each Academy cohort includes up to five business and/or community leaders as participants in each class. This allows participants from the public and private sectors to learn from one another and to expand thinking and problem-solving skills.

**Where are classes held?**

All classes are held on the Campus of The Public Education Foundation, which is located at 4350 S. Maryland Parkway in Las Vegas (across from UNLV).

**If I do not reside in Clark County, are lodging/accommodations available for participants?**

Yes, The Public Education Foundation has corporate partners in Southern Nevada to provide lodging/accommodations at no cost to Academy participants who do not reside in Clark County.

**For more information, contact:**

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