

Alumni Discussion Ideas

What do alumni want and what role are they playing? (15 minutes)

What are we hearing/learning from the alumni of our respective programs?

- How has alumni input/involvement been solicited or encouraged?
- What needs, opportunities and challenges have been identified by alumni?
- Have there been alumni driven activities or organizing initiatives?
- What roles have alumni suggested for themselves in alumni initiatives?

What do existing alumni organizations and activities look like? (30 minutes)

What forms of alumni activity or organization exist for graduates of our programs?

- How are alumni currently organized and/or engaged in alumni activities? Do alumni meet regionally, around specific issues, in national convenings, in class reunions?
- What are the goals of alumni organizations and activity?
- What types of resources support current alumni activities? Is there a budget and how is it funded? E.g. dues, grants, subsidization by program?
- Are alumni efforts staffed? Who hires staff? Are they independent?
- What is the relationship between alumni organization/activities and the program?
- Do alumni serve as mentors, trainers, recruiters to their leadership/fellowship program?
- What percentage of alumni are participating in alumni efforts?
- If there is no current alumni program are there plans to begin one and what do those plans entail?

What have we learned from alumni organizing efforts? (30 minutes)

What has worked and what hasn't?

- What have been critical elements in alumni efforts that have been successful?
- Are there innovative practices that may have some replication potential for other programs?
- How do you measure the success of alumni initiatives?
- What have you learned from efforts that did not succeed? What advice would you share with other programs?

How can LLC support leadership program alumni initiatives? (15 minutes)

Brainstorming possibilities:

- Is there an opportunity to generate learning about alumni organizing from the experience across programs? Will this information have some general application? Should we begin a thematic area for alumni on the web?
- Are there practical forms of support LLC can provide? Space on the web for email for all program alumni, supportive technology for organizing, an learning circle/affinity group for alumni?
- Are there opportunities for LLC to connect the alumni of different programs with each other and what value would this have?

