ALUMNI NETWORK
DEVELOPMENT

- Are you a leadership development program interested in supporting your alumni to connect in a learning network?
- Do you want to integrate a network leadership strategy into your leadership program?
- Do you want to evaluate your existing alumni network?

The Leadership Learning Community (LLC) is your resource for developing an alumni network strategy that is right for your program. Whether you are looking to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of your current alumni network or develop new approaches for connecting the alumni of your program, we work with you to devise a responsive and feasible strategy. We leverage network building techniques, social network analysis, and other innovative methodologies to connect the people, resources and ideas necessary to increase network solidarity and influence. We have pioneered ideas and methodologies for sustainable network building for a decade, launching a variety of cross-alumni collaboration pilot programs at the national level. Our project teams bring together the best minds in network thinking and practice to deliver high-impact results.

Get started with your network strategy today and establish a strong foundation for ongoing support, learning, and collective action among your program graduates and others in your network.

OUR APPROACH

We design a leadership network strategy based on your specific needs and interests. Our services include:

**Network Leadership Development**

*Improve the capacity of your program to support network leadership development*

Network approaches to leadership development are more effective and sustainable when they are deeply integrated into your leadership program. We work closely with you to infuse network-building elements to strengthen your curriculum, such as collaborative technology training, collective decision-making, and understanding of roles within the network.

**Alumni Learning Network**

*Connect your program alumni through a learning network*

We connect your program graduates with graduates of the same or a different program to leverage their diverse experiences and insights by creating opportunities to establish relationships, share resources, and communicate their knowledge. Learning networks foster ongoing support and collaboration among participants.

**Network Evaluation**

*Evaluate your existing network*

If you are already running an alumni network we can help you understand how your members are connected, how they are collaborating, and the impacts they have as a network. Understanding your network is an important step for identifying challenges and opportunities for scaling your efforts.
METHODOLOGY

Social Network Analysis (SNA)
We leverage SNA to visually represent relationships between people, organizations, sectors, silos, communities and other entities within a larger system. By uncovering relationships we can identify opportunities for strengthening your network.

Results Mapping
We use EvaluLEAD, a framework used to guide the evaluation of a program that applies an open-systems approach and considers all the factors that may impact evaluation results, to clarify and articulate the desired network results.

Network Presence Assessment
We identify and monitor relevant communications channels in order to assess how your message is being distributed and received by your audience to help you understand the impact and reach of your network.

Network Storytelling
We listen and tell stories about where collaboration is emerging in networks. Stories may be told in pictures, words, videos and digital formats. Methodologies include “Most Significant Change,” “PhotoVoice,” and “Critical Moments Reflection.”

EXPERTISE

Demonstrated Success in Alumni Network Development

In 2004, we developed a cross-alumni collaboration pilot program with the support of the Rockefeller and W.K. Kellogg Foundations, along with contributions from other foundations. We conducted several learning sessions with over a dozen leadership programs to uncover lessons and innovative practices that support the sustainability of fellowship networks. While the group agreed that cross-alumni collaboration was an important strategy for creating intellectual capital and streamlining efforts, many challenges were identified, such as understanding the structural differences that make programs unique. In the end, the group realized the power of collaboration and began to explore pathways that would increase interaction. Some of these pathways include: creating ways to share resources and best practices, generating opportunities regionally for alumni to come together across programs, identifying events that could be opened to other programs, and creating a communications structure that allows alumni to interact with each other on a regular basis. The pilot produced a ’lessons learned’ document on alumni organizing and generated several collaborations among alumni organizations that have since held joint events and initiatives.

ABOUT US

We are a national nonprofit organization transforming the way leadership development work is conceived, conducted and evaluated, primarily within the nonprofit sector. We focus on leveraging leadership as a means to create a more just and equitable society. We combine our expertise in identifying, evaluating and applying cutting-edge ideas and promising practices in the leadership development field with access to our engaged national network of hundreds of experienced funders, consultants and leadership development programs, to drive the innovation and collaboration needed to make leadership more effective. We provide members with unparalleled access to resources and networking opportunities. We also offer the following consulting services to help programs and foundations optimize their leadership investment strategy: scans, evaluations and network development.

For more information: call 510-238-9080, email info@leadershiplearning.org or visit www.leadershiplearning.org.