• *Is a network approach right for your organization or initiative?*
• *Are you looking to create a learning network?*
• *Do you want to evaluate the health and impact of your existing network?*

The Leadership Learning Community (LLC) is your resource for developing a network strategy that is right for your organization. We work with a wide range of organizations in the social sector, including but not limited to those running leadership programs. Whether you are looking to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of your current network efforts, or develop an entirely new network, 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 people, resources and ideas to increase network solidarity and influence. Our project teams bring together the best minds in network thinking and practice to deliver high-impact results.

**WHY A NETWORK APPROACH?**

Networks are efficient at coordinating resources and have the flexibility to adapt to complex changing environments. Organizations that develop network capacity have reported community and system level results in less time, and utilizing fewer resources, than those that focus on individual level outcomes. Some documented results include the development of a women’s micro-venture network in the Philippines through the Presencing Institute’s Emerging Leaders Innovate Across Sectors program; and a 30% increase in the fifth grade reading scores and the adoption of a bilingual district wide report card in Denver, CO through Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Making Connections Initiative.

**OUR SERVICES**

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

**Activate a powerful learning network**
We connect those inside and/or outside your organization to leverage their experiences and insights by creating opportunities to establish relationships, share resources, and communicate their knowledge and wisdom within and beyond the network. Learning networks foster ongoing support and collaboration among members.

**Assess the impact of your network**
If you are already running a global, national or local network, we can help you understand how your members are connected, how they are collaborating, and the impacts they have as a network. This process can help identify challenges and opportunities for taking your efforts to the next level.
**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.

**Collective Learning Methodologies**

We use innovative peer learning approaches to engage and help groups move from individual intelligence to collective wisdom.

**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 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 Network Development**

Over the last ten years we have worked with leading foundations and organizations to increase the effectiveness of their investments through network development.

**Cross-network Collaboration**

The Synergos Institute hired us in 2009 to provide insight into how to strengthen the capacity of the three networks it supports (Senior Fellows Program, Global Philanthropy Circle and Arab Social Innovators) to foster more collaboration within and across these networks. We conducted a scan of network practices, interviewed a variety of key stakeholders, and formulated strategic recommendations around capacity, communication, and network assessment.

**Using a Network Approach for Evaluation**

Supported by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we worked with a team of evaluators to design and implement a retrospective evaluation of leadership programs. We examined leadership programs in six different countries to explore how the programs can build the capacity of in-country leadership networks to more effectively work together to influence policy and next generation leadership development in the area of reproductive health and family planning. Our strategic recommendations informed the decision-making process of multiple programs involved in the study. Claire Reinelt (formerly at Development Guild/DDI) and Deborah Meehan from LLC joined the team, which also included Kim Howard, an independent consultant, Pamela Putney from Pathfinder International, and Cecilia Roddy from Development Guild/DDI.

“The evaluation recommendations are strongly aligned with the ways the LDM (Leadership Development Program for Mobilizing Reproductive Health) program has evolved. We have continued to expand recruitment of underrepresented sectors, in particular women and youth...The LDM program has also made significant efforts to connect Fellows within countries from across all six leadership programs to strengthen collaborative action for FP/RH improvement.” (Julia Hendrickson, Senior Program Officer, Institute of International Education).
Leadership for a New Era
We launched Leadership for a New Era (LNE) in 2009 as a learning network for individuals and organizations interested in promoting leadership approaches that are more inclusive, networked and collective. We have engaged over 100 participants, including funders, researchers, practitioners and consultants, through face-to-face and online discussions around the following topics: Leadership and Race, Leadership and Networks, Collective Leadership, and Leadership across Difference. Our goal is to tap into our diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise to collaboratively develop the following products for each one of the topics mentioned above: a series of seminal publications summarizing key points, a series of competency assessment tools, and online resource directories. For more information please visit www.leadershipforanewera.org

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.

Our network development projects are led by Claire Reinelt, PhD, LLC’s Research and Evaluations Director, and Deborah Meehan, LLC’s Executive Director. Claire is co-author of a 2010 article in Leadership Quarterly on “Social Network Analysis and the Evaluation of Leadership Networks.” Deborah has extensive experience in developing network strategies to connect leadership program graduates. We also draw from our diverse affiliates, which include some of the nation’s most innovative thought leaders in leadership, community building and networks, in order to build high-performing consultative teams that deliver results.

CONTACT US
Get started with your network strategy today and boost the effectiveness of your initiative or investment.

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