

Session 1: August 19-20 UNDERSTANDING LEADERSHIP PREFERENCES AND MANAGING DIFFERENCES

As an elected leader you are in the business of governing. What does that mean? How is leading in the public arena different from the private sector? Why do they say “you don’t govern alone?” In this opening session we will explore the “publicness” of public leadership. To lead others, you have to first know yourself. The cornerstone of leadership is credibility; that means knowing what you value and having your actions line up with your words. In this opening session, you will discover and affirm your individual leadership preferences and talents through the use of the Meyers Briggs Type Inventory (MBTI) and discuss how your type preferences affect your leadership behaviors and interactions with others in your governing environment.

Session 2: Sept 23-24 BRIDGING DIFFERENCES ON YOUR BOARD

This session builds on your increased awareness of how people can use different approaches to issues and problems. People can have differing values that matter deeply and have strong views about important priorities without making one right and the other wrong. In this session you will learn key tools for reducing misunderstandings between you and other board members. You will develop an understanding of the differences between interests and positions and learn about the ladder of inference. These are key tools that help board members reduce misunderstandings, develop shared goals, and seek common ground.

Session 3: Oct 21-22 EFFECTIVELY LEADING ACROSS BOUNDARIES

In this session, you will explore what collaborative leadership truly is: what it looks like and feels like, and the guiding principles that help true collaborations succeed for the long term. You will explore the behaviors and characteristics that lead to collaborative problem-solving, and that help a leader share a vision that extends beyond their own governing boundaries. Participants will learn the personal leadership skills needed to create a culture of collaboration, not only within their governing boards but also with other boards and groups in their region.

Session 4: Nov 18-19 COMMUNICATING YOUR MESSAGE

In this session, you will learn the principles of connecting with the audience to communicate your vision and values. You will learn how to shape your message in ways that communicate effectively with citizens, and practice using persuasive speaking techniques. You will have the opportunity to create your own persuasive message that will be practiced and refined through evaluation and one-on-one feedback.

Between-Sessions Virtual Learning Communities: Between face-to-face sessions, additional on-line coaching resources will be provided to reinforce and evaluate your practical application of your changing behaviors and leadership practices. Through these small group virtual learning communities, you will have the opportunity to share your experiences at attempting to practice what you have learned and engage in peer consultations with others from the class on your identified leadership challenges.