

LeadDIVERSITY

Developing Leaders in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging

LeadDIVERSITY is a program in which a select group of professionals engage with community leaders and one another to raise the participants' awareness of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging issues, build their leadership skills, and enhance their network. Each session is designed to help participants explore the concepts of diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and leadership, and to analyze its personal, workplace, and community impact in the current climate.

PARTICIPANTS GAIN

- ✦ A greater awareness of personal identity, intersectionality & systemic oppression.
- ✦ An expanded knowledge of local experts, organizations, & resources.
- ✦ A tool kit for addressing issues of diversity, inclusion, equity, & belonging in personal & professional settings.
- ✦ An ability to be an advocate for inclusion & belonging.

APPLY NOW

- 📞 diversitycenterneo.org
- ✉ jdaigler@diversitycenterneo.org

"Thanks to LeadDIVERSITY, I am turning myself from a DEI supporter to a leader."



Process

LeadDIVERSITY approaches diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and leadership issues from a no-fault, interactive foundation with the goal of affecting positive change. Emphasis is placed on personal and professional growth through self-reflection and group participation as well as knowledge and practical skill enrichment. The class will meet in-person to engage with regional leaders in the corporate, non-profit, and civic arenas who hold diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging as high values. Group members also look to one another throughout the year as a source for information, experience, and dialogue.

Participation

The *LeadDIVERSITY* program consists of 9 sessions and Graduation; the first session is mandatory. Programming will include in-person sessions, seminars, small group breakouts, personal reflection, conversations with Northeast Ohio's prominent leaders, in-depth facilitated group activities and discussion, and program evaluation. Full participation is essential to the *LeadDIVERSITY* experience.

Tuition

Tuition for each participant in the *LeadDIVERSITY* Class of 2027 is \$4,500.

Applicants may be sponsored by their employers, or with agreement from their employer, may sponsor themselves. A limited number of partial scholarships are available based on financial need.

Testimonials

"*LeadDIVERSITY* has been a bright spot in my year. The teachings, experiences, and people are powerful, and being a member of this cohort opened up a new layer of community for me that continually unfolds month-after-month. What I've learned through *LeadDIVERSITY* has stayed with me. It informs my thinking, yes, but more than anything it's shown me that there's work to be done, and we need one another to do it."

-Cat Geletka, Saint Ignatius High School, Class of 2025

"*LeadDIVERSITY* is a life-changing experience. This program takes DEIB from concept, to practice, to application. I have gained knowledge and skills that will serve me in my work and my daily life for years to come. I'm forever grateful to this program and the opportunity to learn with and get to know my classmates."

-Erin Thompson, Hyland Software, Class of 2024

2026-2027 Sessions

LAYING THE FOUNDATION *Community Partner: Hillel at Kent State~ Mandatory Session - September 23, 2026 (9:30-4)*

Explore group dynamics, communication, and unconscious bias while getting to know your classmates.

IDENTITY *Community Partner: Saint Ignatius High School - October 15, 2026 (9-5)*

Examine your own identities and their intersections with privilege and oppression along with ways to take action.

SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION - November 9, 2026 (9-5)

Learn how oppression works at various levels and how that impacts our understanding of ourselves, others, our organizations, and communities.

STOP THE HATE *Community Partner: Maltz Museum - December 7, 2026 (9-4)*

Discover collections from the Museum, hear from a Holocaust Survivor, and discuss examples of discrimination today.

ALLIES, ACCOMPLICES, & ACTION *Community Partner: KeyBank - January 13, 2027 (9-5)*

Explore being an ally, accomplice, and co-conspirator for personal and institutional change.

INCLUSION & BELONGING *Community Partner: Hyland - February 11, 2027 (9-5)*

Learn about creating inclusion and belonging at work and in communities, and delve into discussions on racial equity and justice.

CREATING CHANGE *Community Partner: Metro RTA - March 11, 2027 (9-5)*

Explore change and the roles we can take on in creating new paths for ourselves, organizations, and communities.

EQUITY IN COMMUNITIES *Community Partner: Teaching Cleveland - April 15, 2027 (9-4)*

Tour the city of Cleveland to visit historic places, learn about serving diverse neighborhoods, and building equity in communities.

ETHICAL LEADERSHIP *Community Partner: Progressive Insurance - May 18, 2027 (9-4)*

Think about your own ethical principles, then use a framework to explore ethical decision making, and plan for your next steps.

GRADUATION June 3, 2027 (4:30-7:30)

Gather to celebrate your experience as a class with Diversity Center Staff, Board, and your invited guests

LeadDIVERSITY

Program Application

- More information can be found at diversitycenterneo.org
- Applications are due by August 6, 2026
- All applicants will be notified of their status in the class by August 31, 2026

Questions?

Please reach out to Jessica Daigler, Director of *LeadDIVERSITY*
jdaigler@diversitycenterneo.org



"*LeadDIVERSITY* is more than a program—it's an experience that stays with you, shaping how you show up as a leader, a community member, and a lifelong learner."

—Meg Carver, Progressive Insurance, *LeadDIVERSITY* Class of 2026