

## Member Spotlight:

Dress for Success Cincinnati

Lisa Nolan

Executive Director



**DRESS FOR<sup>®</sup>**  
**SUCCESS**  
CINCINNATI

### Tell me a little about your agency, yourself, your career, and your current position.



Lisa Nolan

*The mission of Dress for Success Cincinnati (DFSC) is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing professional attire, a network of support and career development tools to help them thrive in work and life. We believe each woman deserves the chance to dream and reach her potential because when she does, her impact on her family and the community will be profound.*

*I had the privilege of joining DFSC as executive director in March 2017, when I transitioned careers from practicing law. In my role, I also serve as executive director of Portaluca, our social enterprise boutique, through which we sell new and new-ish fabulous fashions to the public to help financially support DFSC programs.*

### How long have you been a LC member and what prompted you to join?

*While DFSC's membership predated me, I've personally been a member since 2017, when I joined the organization. Jenny was kind enough to meet with me when I had a flurry of networking coffee meetings in my search for the right position to make my career transition into the non-profit sector. I learned about the LC from her at that time, and I knew that it would be a great resource both for me, personally, and for DFSC.*

### How has membership in Leadership Council been of value to you?

*In my transition from attorney to non-profit ED, I took advantage of all the training and networking opportunities I could. To highlight a few, I think fondly of those who were in my Leadership Circle that first year and still call on some of these fellow EDs for advice. Several LC presentations have also led to more in-depth work with the subject matter experts, who I've hired for consulting projects. Finally, the compensation survey was an invaluable tool in our compensation and benefits audit.*

### What is the best leadership advice you have received or given?

*Received from an amazing and fierce group of women: If everyone is happy/comfortable, you probably are not doing your job as a leader.*

### Has your agency developed any notable partnerships, initiatives, and/or collaborations with other organizations (for profit or not for profit) to further your agencies work?

*In 2019, DFSC entered a partnership with Cincinnati Works (CW) to leverage both organizations' strengths to best serve our women clients, while minimizing duplication of services and making the most efficient use of community resources. CW has been a referral agency for many years, but there is always a risk of losing clients through the referral process when they are required to go back and forth to agencies at different locations. CW is an expert in the area of individual coaching, and DFSC provides an environment, group programs and networks in which female clients thrive.*

### Please feel free to share any additional information, announcements, or news with the Leadership Council community.

*If you work with unemployed or underemployed women who would benefit from the services of DFSC, we'd be happy to get you set up as a referral partner! Visit <https://dfscincy.org/client-services/client-referral/>*

*Existing referral partners can also women for no-contact interview or employment styling services at the link above or email [workforcedevelopment@dfscincy.org](mailto:workforcedevelopment@dfscincy.org) for career coaching, mock interview or Professional Women's Group (ongoing career support) services.*