



The Bridging Leaders Program

Growing Leaders to Support Organizational Goals and Community Well-Being

Objective

This leadership development program builds community by enabling leaders from different sectors to collaborate and innovate on solution-finding. Together, they address complex issues that support the organization and the greater good.

Intention

- Impact all three levels - individual, organizational and community – with a learning by doing approach
- Expand consciousness by engaging heads, hearts and hands in collaborative dialogue
- Engage leaders, regardless of role/title, by linking inner purpose with outer action

Result areas could include poverty reduction, environmental concerns, food security, gender equity, women/youth empowerment and waste management. The Bridging Leaders Program provides the infrastructure as the means to this end.

“We cannot solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.” Einstein

Program Overview

The Bridging Leaders Program disrupts cultural norms by introducing pioneering, audacious ways of thinking. This six-month program, formerly a UN flagship offering, provides a bold arena to catalyze teams to achieve real outcomes. Each organizational team designs and implements an Innovation Project that generates value with a quad-focused-bottom-line – People, Planet, Partners and Prosperity.

In this living laboratory, leaders practice systems-thinking, dissolve old habits and experiment with new approaches to complex challenges. Ongoing team coaching supports a think-tank to transform breakdowns into breakthroughs. Content is competency-based. Dynamic facilitation creates a trusting, transformative learning space to harness wisdom.

Audience and Methods

Every program is customized to the context and desired results. Approximately 40-55 multi-stakeholder leaders attend three 3 day workshops, scheduled over six months. Audience could include government, private sector, social profit, youth, labour, media, arts and UN agencies. A hybrid face-to-face/online learning strategy can also be used.

Success Stories

- A group of bankers in Ghana adopted a river to rehabilitate. Corporate social responsibility expanded to another level of engagement beyond donating money. The river became clean drinking water for the first time in multi-generations.
- An NGO secured 75,000 fuel-efficient wood burning stoves to save trees, educate women about eco-friendly forest stewardship and catalyze the local community in a reforestation program.
- An Ethiopian NGO team initiated a 1% green payroll tax in multiple sectors to raise thousands of dollars for rural climate change adaptation projects. Multi-sectoral leaders were enrolled in this innovative endeavor.

Benefits

- Leaders form strategic alliances as powerful partnerships are needed to generate extraordinary results
- Organizations bridge-build beyond silos to mobilize talent and unleash creativity and high performance
- Communities are enriched by a results-oriented approach that broadens civic engagement and quality of life

Why now?

The complex challenges leaders face today require a different level of leadership thinking, deeper engagement and new voices at the table. This program unlocks the potential of collaboration for cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary cooperation.

Co-Facilitators: Elizabeth Soltis, Founder/Director of Bridges Global and a talented Associate

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