

Early Childhood Leadership Institute

2015 Session Descriptions

Session 1: OPENING RETREAT: KNOW THYSELF - May 21 & 22, Vergennes

Team building exercises and experiential activities help associates become acquainted with each other and the program while building a safe learning environment. Assessment tools begin to clarify the different ways that participants process information, communicate and make decisions. Assessments and exercises create a rich picture of each associate's leadership style and behavior. With coaching assistance associates begin to identify personal goals and aspirations for the 6 month program. Reflection and small-group activities help associates build and deepen a cohesive learning community.

Session 2: LEADERSHIP IN CONTEXT – June 18 & 19, Stowe

This session expands on Associates' understanding of their own leadership style and strengths while continuing to build group cohesiveness. The session will introduce issues of diversity, power and privilege as participants take a deeper dive into values and issues impacting young children in Vermont and the US. Associates will begin to consider how to apply new concepts to their professional and community work and to the range of issues they will explore during ECLI. In this session the cohort will become familiar with the state of Vermont's Early Childhood Framework and Action plan and hear from the leaders who shaped the plan.

Session 3: CONNECTING HUMAN CENTERED SYSTEMS - July 23 & 24, Fairlee

Application of data, values, power and privilege will be used as lenses for the exploration of what it takes to create, track, and evaluate meaningful systems change. Associates will examine political, fiscal, and cultural realities and explore the leadership needs challenges, and opportunities to achieve change. Associates will begin to connect health, human services, and education systems through a series of participatory activities that focus in teaming and collaboration.

Session 4: THE SHAPING OF EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES - August 20 & 21, Manchester

The State's capitol city and State House provide the backdrop for deepening our understanding of the nuances of Vermont government and policy-making. Science and early education policy set the stage for an exploration of the multiple dimensions of complex issues and systems thinking. Associates begin to apply new tools and self-awareness to discussions with the many people involved in large-scale decision-making processes. Representatives from different branches of government, the media, and special interests explore the interplay among values, ethics, policy and finance in the public and private sectors.

Session 5: DATA AND DECISION MAKING - September 24 & 25, Fairlee

Results Based Accountability and Vermont Insights will be covered by Vermont's leading data stewards. Panelists will highlight how data for families and early childhood is gathered and utilized across Vermont agencies and organization to make decisions. Associates will examine how data is used within their community and gain a deeper understanding of translating data in to decisions.

Session 6: COMMENCEMENT - October 16 & 17, Vergennes

Associates reflect on the program and on their growth, and continue to consider ways to apply their learning to their personal, professional and community work in the future. Graduates will share how they will connect their personal leadership to service of Vermont's young children. Festivities honor their efforts and commitment.