Senior Leadership Academy 2024–2025

A leadership development program to prepare experienced administrators for vice presidencies and other senior positions in independent higher education

OPENING SEMINAR: October 31–November 2, 2024
Portland, OR

CLOSING SEMINAR: June 10–11, 2025
Washington, DC

NOMINATION DEADLINE: Friday, February 23, 2024
5:00 p.m. ET

cic.edu/seniorleadershipacademy
Senior Leadership Academy 2024–2025

The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and the American Academic Leadership Institute (AALI) are pleased to announce the 2024–2025 Senior Leadership Academy (SLA), a yearlong program for administrators in higher education who aspire to cabinet level positions in independent colleges or universities. Participants will acquire knowledge, skills, and experience germane to the responsibilities and activities central to the work of a vice president or cabinet officer.

Leaders for a New Era

The SLA fills a gap in the current leadership pipeline by preparing talented leaders with the skills needed to advance to a senior leadership position on campus. The SLA also helps participants broaden their understanding of the higher education ecosystem and of the full range of leadership roles needed for institutional success.

Program

The program consists of:

- Two seminars—one in Portland, Oregon, October 31–November 2, 2024; and the other in Washington, DC, June 10–11, 2025—led by current presidents, vice presidents, and other senior leaders in higher education as well as experts in key areas;
- Readings in leadership theory and practice;
- A highly individualized Professional Experience Plan (PEP) designed to fill “gaps” in the participant’s expertise and experience;
- Mentorship by both the participant’s campus mentor and the program director;
- Individualized executive coaching throughout the program; and
- Webinars, regional gatherings, book groups, campus visits, and other activities developed by participants.

“The Senior Leadership Academy provided a collegial and collaborative environment in which I could explore my professional values and discern my own vocational pathway in higher education. Learning from and alongside experienced administrators and presidents who were open, vulnerable, and real about the opportunities and challenges of higher education was invaluable. This was professional development and relationship building at its best.”

Sarah Nytroe
SLA 2022–2023
Division Head of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, DeSales University (PA)
Program Leadership

The program director is Javier Cevallos, president of AALI and president emeritus of Framingham State University (MA).

Participants

The program is intended for individuals whose next position would likely be a cabinet position in academic affairs, student affairs, finance and administration, enrollment management, or advancement, and whose current position might be assistant or associate provost, assistant or associate vice president, academic dean, assistant or associate dean, academic division chair, or administrative director.

Approximately 40 participants from independent colleges and universities will be selected.

Costs

The individual program fee for the 2024–2025 academic year is $2,850, which includes all program costs as well as meals during the two seminars. Participants or their institutions are responsible for travel and lodging expenses.

Fellowships Available

With generous support from AALI, CIC offers fellowships to encourage broad and representative participation in SLA. Preference is given to nominees from under-resourced institutions that otherwise might be unable to support their participation. Nominators should indicate whether they wish a nominee to be considered for a fellowship.

“This has been a great program in all sorts of ways. Before I began the program, I was in need of mentors and colleagues in a similar situation and mindset as me. I also needed more clarity about my future path and how to make job application decisions. SLA was integral to all of these developments for me this past year. I am eternally grateful.”

Amanda Krause
SLA 2022–2023
Director of International Programs,
Mount St. Mary’s University (MD)

“The SLA guidance and networking positioned me well to transition to a vice presidency. I wholeheartedly recommend SLA to anyone with a desire to advance and thrive as a higher education senior administrator.”

Michael J. Marshall
SLA 2018–2019
Vice President for Enrollment, Marketing, and Communication,
Bellarmine University (KY)
Nomination Procedure

All nomination materials must be submitted as a single complete packet on the CIC website at cic.edu/seniorleadershipacademy.

Individuals who wish to participate should ask the president, provost, or a vice president of their current institution to submit the nomination. The nomination packet must consist of:

A nomination form, available at cic.edu/seniorleadershipacademy;

• The nominee’s curriculum vitae;

• A letter of nomination; and

• A statement by the candidate explaining his or her interest in and potential for a senior administrative position.

See the website for full details about the nomination process: cic.edu/seniorleadershipacademy.

Nomination Deadline

The nomination packet is due by Friday, February 23, 2024, 5:00 p.m. ET. Selection of participants will be announced by Friday, March 29, 2024.

Additional Information

• For questions about the process and logistics, contact Marina Esteve Wagstaff at mwagstaff@cic.edu or (202) 552-8986. For questions about program content, contact Javier Cevallos, president, AALI, at javier@americanali.org or (202) 263-7488.