



The Council of
Independent Colleges



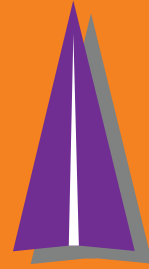
American Association
of State Colleges and
Universities
Delivering America's Promise



AMERICAN ACADEMIC
LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Executive Leadership Academy 2027–28

A leadership development program
to prepare college and university
vice presidents and cabinet-level
officers for presidencies and other
senior executive positions



OPENING SEMINAR:

June 14–15, 2027
Washington, DC

CLOSING SEMINAR:

June 8–9, 2028
Washington, DC

CIC NOMINATION DEADLINE:

Friday, February 5, 2027
5:00 p.m. ET

cic.edu/ela

Executive Leadership Academy 2027–28

The Executive Leadership Academy (ELA) is a yearlong program cosponsored by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), and the American Academic Leadership Institute (AALI) to prepare experienced provosts and vice presidents to move to positions of greater responsibility, including presidencies. Participants will acquire knowledge, skills, and experiences germane to the responsibilities and activities central to the work of a president or other senior-level leader. The program assumes that participants will remain in their current positions throughout the program.



Participants of the 2026–27 ELA cohort met in Washington, DC, for the Opening Seminar.

Developing the Next Generation of Presidents

The president's role, as well as that of other senior administrators, has changed. It now requires an understanding of all aspects of the institution—from enrollment to endowment management and from governmental to alumni relations—not to mention inclusion and belonging, athletics, fundraising, marketing, student affairs, strategic planning, and financial management. The president's necessary expertise also has expanded beyond institutional borders, to include regulatory and legislative issues and crisis communications. Further, it is more essential than ever that the pipeline of senior leaders prepares a diverse range of candidates from all backgrounds to succeed. ELA develops the wide-ranging skills that new presidents and senior executives will need to meet the challenges of today's educational environment and serve today's students.

Program

The program consists of:

- Two seminars in Washington, DC, (**June 14–15, 2027**, and **June 8–9, 2028**) led by current and former presidents as well as specialists in key areas;
- A highly individualized Professional Experience Plan (PEP) designed to fill “gaps” in the participant's expertise and experience;

- Mentorship by both the participant's current president and the program director;
- Individualized executive coaching;
- Peer-to-peer participant-led webinars, regional gatherings, and activities.

Program Leadership

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

Participants

Individuals currently serving in cabinet-level positions in any division of their institution are eligible to participate. Approximately 35 participants will be selected for the 2027–28 cohort—half from CIC member institutions and half from AASCU institutions.

Costs

The program fee for the 2027–28 academic year is \$3,935. This fee includes all program costs as well as meals during the two seminars. The participants or their institutions are responsible for travel and lodging expenses.

Fellowships Available

CIC is committed to preparing a new generation of leaders from varied backgrounds and perspectives to thrive on today's campuses. Nominators will be expected to explain how the candidacy of their nominee will support this goal. Through generous support from AALI, CIC is also able to provide a select number of fellowships to support this broad participation. All candidates will be considered for one of these fellowships.



"I would recommend the Executive Leadership Academy (ELA) to anyone who is considering a presidency. The yearlong experience provided the opportunity to connect with and learn from a variety of higher education leaders from across the country, both other ELA participants and those leading sessions during the year. The sessions throughout the year granted a wealth of information and also allowed time and space to ask questions and reflect. Most importantly, the ELA experience renewed my faith in the importance of higher education. The experience was a needed reminder that higher education is in good hands with many who I view as seeking the presidency for the right reasons, not for the title, but rather to have the opportunity to lead institutions in providing meaningful educational pathways and outcomes for students and communities we serve."

Jason Harmon
ELA 2025–26
Vice President Enrollment
Management
Dominican University (IL)



The ELA is generously supported by AALI and Academic Search.



"ELA was an excellent experience and one that helped me grow in confidence and clarity as a leader. The presenters shared valuable and relevant information and painted a picture of the broader landscape for higher education—and ways to think creatively about leadership. I also appreciated the opportunities to meet during this past academic year, and when in DC this past weekend, it was wonderful reconnecting with my small group and discussing information with them. I am now thinking differently about future leadership possibilities, but I am also energized to bring back new ideas and information to my current institution in my current role. Thank you to CIC and AALI for this invaluable opportunity!"

Susan Daniels Henderson
ELA 2025–26
Provost
Coker University (SC)

Nomination Procedure

All nomination materials must be submitted on the CIC website at cic.edu/ela.

Nominations must come from the president to whom the nominee reports and indicate the president's commitment to serve during 2026–27 as a mentor. Individuals who wish to be nominated should discuss the opportunity with the president to request nomination.

The nomination packet should consist of the following items:

- A nomination form, available at cic.edu/ela;
- The nominee's curriculum vitae;
- A letter of nomination;
- A statement by the candidate explaining their interest in and potential for a presidency or other senior position in higher education.

See the website for full details about the nomination process.

Nomination Deadline

The nomination packet is due by **Friday, February 5, 2027, 5:00 p.m. (ET)**. Selection of participants will be announced by **Friday, March 12, 2027**. Every year we receive more applications than we can accommodate, therefore we are unable to consider submissions received after the stated deadline.

Questions?

For questions about the nomination process, contact Anthony Burton at aburton@cic.edu or (202) 519-3556. For questions about program content, contact Javier Cevallos, president, AALI, at javier@americanali.org or (202) 263-7488.



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