



# Leaders Lab of Greater Charlottesville



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## Leaders Lab of Greater Charlottesville Invites Applicants for 2022 Cohort

*Charlottesville Chamber announces largest-ever program investment to support sliding scale access for diverse leaders.*

(Charlottesville, Virginia – May 4, 2022) The founders of a new leadership program aim to build a “network of doers” for the greater Charlottesville area – and they’re now recruiting the program’s inaugural participants.

The Leaders Lab of Greater Charlottesville launches this fall, offering a 9-month program for current and emerging local leaders to build their leadership skills and practice collaborative community problem-solving.

“Leaders Lab of Greater Charlottesville is grounded in the belief that all of us are and can be leaders - wherever we sit professionally or in our communities,” said Cristine Nardi, Executive Director of the Center for Nonprofit Excellence.

“If you're hoping to grow your own leadership skills, gain a deeper understanding of regional issues, develop the tools to be an agent of community change, and meet others seeking the same, this new program is for you,” Nardi said.

Interested individuals can learn more and apply now at [CvilleChamber.com/leaderslab](https://CvilleChamber.com/leaderslab).

The Leaders Lab curriculum and program have been crafted by the executive leaders of four local organizations with decades of leadership development expertise: the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Center for Nonprofit Excellence, the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia, and the Institute for Engagement and Negotiation at the University of Virginia.

“The Cooper Center’s emphasis on improving good governance across the Commonwealth is based on our belief in the power of cross-sectoral leadership, and the Leaders Lab is reflective of this vision,” said Larry D. Terry II, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Weldon Cooper Center.

“This collaboration with the Chamber, CNE and IEN was carefully put together in the hopes that individuals from all corners of the region will find value in this program and use it to be transformative in their communities,” Terry said. “We are thrilled to be a part of this important work and are looking forward to beginning this journey with the first cohort this fall.”

Program participants will learn best practices in conflict resolution, multi-party negotiations, cultural competence, meeting facilitation, and many more skills they can put to work immediately in their careers and in the community.

The founders of the Leaders Lab are committed to enrolling a cohort that reflects our entire community – in terms of geography, industry, race, gender, age and more – to establish a deeply collaborative network of leaders across the wide spectrum of our population.

“In today’s world, leadership can and should come from all sectors and all levels,” said Frank Dukes, Ph.D., Distinguished Fellow at the Institute for Engagement and Negotiation.

“The ability to engage across boundaries is key to building a community that works for all its residents,” Dukes said. “I am both pleased and honored that our Institute is part of this promising and important effort.”

To ensure the \$2,900 program tuition does not prevent qualified applicants from joining the cohort, the Chamber has established the Leaders Lab Fund for the Future. The Fund will make possible a sliding scale that ensures access to all applicants selected for the cohort.

The Chamber has seeded this fund with \$50,000, the largest single program investment in Chamber history. We are seeking several donors to make a matching contribution.

For information about investing in the Leaders Lab Fund for the Future, please contact Chamber President & CEO Elizabeth Cromwell at [Elizabeth.cromwell@cvillechamber.com](mailto:Elizabeth.cromwell@cvillechamber.com) or 434.295.3141.

The first Leaders Lab program session will be held in September 2022. Applications for the first cohort will be accepted through July 1, and applicants will be notified in late July.

### **About the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce**

The [Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce](#) advocates, convenes and engages to strengthen business in the greater Charlottesville Region. Its simple yet clear vision is a thriving regional economy. The Chamber works to grow and support big ideas that produce meaningful, measurable results for members and nurture a healthy business environment.

Chamber events and programs are supported by our Partners in Trust: University of Virginia, UVA Health, The Daily Progress, Albemarle County Economic Development, albemarle Magazine, Atlantic Union Bank, Hantzmon Wiebel LLP, Innovative Software Solutions, MPS, Ting, United Bank, UVA Community Credit Union, Wells Fargo, Woodard Properties, Advanced Network Systems, Great Eastern Management Company, Hourigan, Lee Construction Group Inc., LUMOS, Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital, State Farm, Tom Tom Foundation, Allison Partners, F&M Bank, Four Corners Real Estate Solutions, Melvin Burruss Attorney at Law, and Story House Real Estate.

### **About the Center for Nonprofit Excellence**

The [Center for Nonprofit Excellence](#) (CNE) believes we can best strengthen the social impact sector by investing in the people and organizations that build community. We mentor, train, coach, advocate and partner with our members and community organizations at large so they can be positive, powerful agents for community change. We help social impact organizations build the foundations of strong leadership,

effective governance and skilled, motivated and inspired staff. With direct engagement with over 710 nonprofit organizations last year alone, and established strong partnerships with regional funders across the state, CNE has built a diverse, progressive, dynamic community of practice. CNE invests in nonprofits because healthy nonprofits power equitable, thriving, and just communities.

### **About the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service**

The [Cooper Center](#) serves localities in the Commonwealth in the context of a complex 21st century in which civic challenges are interconnected and problem-solving requires engaged communities and collaboration across traditional boundaries. In this new context, the Center is reimagining public service to ensure our work is impact-driven and focused on the needs of the diverse communities in Virginia; inclusive of leaders at all levels and of individuals with differing perspectives and from varied backgrounds; and guided always by our values of access, collaboration, commitment to community, and impact.

### **About the Institute for Engagement & Negotiation**

Founded in 1980, the [Institute for Engagement & Negotiation](#) (IEN) is a public service organization of the University of Virginia at the School of Architecture. We are recognized nationally for both our depth of experience and breadth of work. We work on most anything that impacts both our natural and built environment – natural resources, public health, community infrastructure, and equity and social issues. The Institute for Engagement & Negotiation is a change-agent with the skills, experience and vision for transforming chaos into order, for helping people navigate daunting challenges toward collaborative solutions.

We work as facilitators and mediators to help communities, agencies, nonprofits and businesses make sustainable decisions through collaborative approaches, in order to sustain communities ecologically, socially and economically.

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### **5.04.22 Attachments: Leaders Lab logo and graphics; “Partners in Collaboration” graphic**






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 of Greater Charlottesville  
 Exceptional skills-building and deep  
 collaboration for a stronger community




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