



LEADS Kicks Off Three New Cohorts of Innovative Executive Leadership Programming in Lowell, Lawrence and Haverhill in affiliation with Harvard Business School

The Program Expands the Leadership Capacity and Social Capital of a Diverse Group of Gateway City Power Players

Embargoed until 7/22/20

LAWRENCE, MA--The LEADS Executive Leadership program has announced the participants in its newest cohort, which includes high impact leaders from Lawrence, Haverhill and Lowell.

The roughly 70 diverse, cross sectoral participants (see full listing at www.leadsmma.org) will engage in a seven month fellowship program that is designed and delivered by Harvard Business School faculty and staff, and is meant to catalyze systems level change at the community and regional level. The program, which has been adapted due to Covid-19, is scheduled to kick off on August 5th. Pam Hallagan, Director of Custom Executive Education at Harvard Business School (HBS) and Co-Founder and Executive Director of LEADS states, “LEADS programming is a powerful platform to connect impactful leaders within the Merrimack Valley as well as to other key change makers in Boston and across the state. We couldn’t be more impressed with the quality of this new cohort to carry this critical work forward.” LEADS represents a mechanism for investing in more inclusive leadership pipelines. The new cohort is majority female (52%) and majority people of color (57%), reflecting the communities that are the ultimate beneficiaries of this investment in the capacity, connectivity, and commitment of local and regional leaders

LEADS was initially piloted two years ago in Lawrence in collaboration with the Lawrence Partnership. The success of the program led to support for its continuation—and expansion—throughout the Merrimack Valley Regional Impact Cluster (RIC). The Lawrence Partnership will continue to anchor the Lawrence cohort, while the Lowell Plan and Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce have been incorporated as core partners, supporting the build out of cohorts in Lowell and Haverhill, respectively.

According to Congresswoman Lori Trahan, whose district includes Lowell, Lawrence and Haverhill, “the opportunity to invest in both local initiatives and networks alongside regional partners makes LEADS a unique space for problem solving around the difficult issues—and opportunities—that so many of our communities in the Merrimack Valley face, whether they are related to housing, transportation, or workforce development.”

The LEADS programming marries the global excellence of HBS caliber curriculum with immersion into community issues and relevant networks. Modules are hosted locally in participating communities, at HBS, and in Boston, with a combination of academic, field-based and networking-based components. Throughout the program, participants work in cross-sectoral project teams leading to actionable initiatives that produce solutions to systems-level issues. From the pilot programs in Lawrence, projects were designed around downtown revitalization, small business development, bilingual manufacturing pipelining, and regional opioid coordination. Wendy Estrella, a local business leader who participated in the first pilot in Lawrence adds that, “LEADS was not only transformative for me as a business and civic leader, but it has catalyzed so many important conversations, relationships, and projects, resulting in new investments and momentum in Lawrence. The regional expansion of this programming will no doubt have an even greater impact on the participants and our community at large.”

For more information about:

The full LEADS program, contact:

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The Lawrence LEADS cohort, contact

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The Lowell LEADS cohort, contact

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The Haverhill LEADS cohort, contact

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