

DRAFT - Summary of Board & Commission Training Pilot - March 2019

Led by University of Minnesota Extension, Leadership & Civic Engagement Educators (Beth Kallestad, Brian Fredrickson, Mary Ann Hennen).

Purpose: Build participant's networks, skills, and confidence to aspire to and serve on public arena appointed local boards and commissions (recognizing skills could be applied in nonprofit boards and elected positions as well).

Target audience are those from historically under-represented groups (people of color, indigenous, LGBTQ, women, differing abilities, poverty, age, etc) relevant to parity, local demographics. [The majority of participants are from target audience groups representing local demographics.]

Participant characteristics:

- Demonstrated emerging leadership interest and/or experience
- Curiosity in the workings of local government
- Able to speak and read English

Leadership for what?

- Successful current and future service on boards, commissions and/or in elected offices that promote equity, engagement and leadership.
- More under-represented people on local public boards so that the community's positional leadership reflect the demographics of that community for the needs of 21st century local governance.
- Fully participate and contribute to the decision -making and leadership of the group.
- Look beyond self-interest to take an active role in shaping their community for present and future
- Strengthened communities through skilled and representative leadership

Format: 4 group sessions of 3 hours each, 1 evening a month with a meal OR 1 Saturday (either morning or afternoon) over the course of 5 months. Participants attend one Board/Commission meeting to observe and write reflections. Assign a mentor to participants (someone currently on a board or who was recently) who will meet with participants for an hour (or more) to share experiences.

For each session we could provide resources for additional learning/deeper dives for those who want it.

Session 1 - (Month 1) Expectations, Roles, & Responsibilities of Board Members (what are boards, why serve, what do I do when I get there), Using my strengths/abilities/experience (Yes you can!)

****Participants meet with Mentor between Month 1 - Month 3**

Session 2 - (Month 2) Board Governance Structures, Understanding Financial Statements

Session 3 - (Month 3) Conducting a Meeting - Robert's Rules of Order, Conflict Management, Group Decisions

Session 4 - (Month 4) Topic/Content Knowledge - NOT a group session - Participants attend a Board/Commission meeting on a topic of interest to them between Months 3 - 5

Session 5 - (Month 5) Bringing an Equity lens to your Board, ways to support/encourage change, Share what learned from attending B/C meeting, Graduation.

Finances:

As this is a pilot project, Extension will not be charging a fee to participate in the course and will be providing funds to cover food, location rental, any speakers outside Extension, supplies, and participant stipends (\$50 gas card).

Extensions contributions are:

- Preparation of content and teaching time
- Assist with logistics -location, supplies
- Coach mentors
- Securing guest speakers/presenters as needed
- Evaluation of the process, content and participant learning
- Educator travel time and expenses

Partner contributions

This is a pilot project for us and are looking for local partners who are willing to serve in an advisory role in developing the workshop, assist in finding mentors, helping to secure location and recruiting participants.