

# The Center for Nonprofit Excellence

JANUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER



## BUILDING STRONG LEADERS

### Our Executive Leadership Program: Developing leaders who can navigate challenges, articulate vision, and better manage their staff and board

It's lonely at the top, but it doesn't have to be. That's the thinking behind CNE's peer-to-peer Executive Leadership Program. The program brings together executives from around Fairfield County to discuss their challenges and opportunities in order to be more effective leaders. 12 leaders participated in monthly meetings and received individual coaching in 2015. These Executive Directors attributed the program with improving their ability to manage their boards, articulate their vision and gain buy-in, and navigate roadblocks. With combined budgets of \$19 million, these executives are serving 163,000 people annually and employing 145 people. 11 Executive Directors are continuing their participation in 2016.

## WHAT'S THE IMPACT?

**"I have improved confidence as a leader and can more clearly communicate my goals."**

**"I'm better able to articulate and engage board and staff around my vision for the organization."**

**"I've learned to delegate more and have a much more solid and organized management and administrative infrastructure."**

**"I'm very grateful for the relationships I'm forming with other leaders and for the practical support through coaching and workshops."**

**"I now have increased confidence in myself, translating into greater respect in the community."**

— Program Participants

## Mid-Year Highlights FY16

**450** INDIVIDUALS FROM **270** ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED IN CNE PROGRAMS FROM JULY – DECEMBER 2015.

## EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM IMPACT

- 100%** IMPROVED THEIR ABILITY TO NAVIGATE ROADBLOCKS
- 88%** DEVELOPED NEW OR IMPROVED EXISTING SKILLS THROUGH BEST PRACTICE SESSIONS
- 88%** IMPROVED THEIR ABILITY TO MANAGE THEIR BOARDS
- 88%** HAVE GREATER SELF-AWARENESS ABOUT THEMSELVES AS LEADERS
- 88%** HAVE IMPROVED THEIR ABILITY TO ARTICULATE VISION AND GET OTHERS ON BOARD
- 100%** SATISFIED WITH THE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



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**EXPANDED OFFERINGS!**

**Helping nonprofits stay ahead of the curve by learning about advocacy to promote and protect their missions**

According to the National Council of Nonprofits, one of the top nonprofit trends in 2015 is the need for nonprofits to engage in advocacy to promote and protect their missions. Our survey of Fairfield County nonprofits found that more than 50% of nonprofit respondents were unsatisfied with their current level of advocacy. In response, the CNE held its first Fairfield County Advocacy Day and expanded our Legislative Forums to the county’s four cities. 220 individuals from 140 nonprofits participated, along with 21 State Elected Officials. Speaker Brendan Sharkey, Senator Majority Leader Bob Duff and Senate Chair of the Appropriations Committee Beth Bye spoke at Advocacy Day.

“Advocacy is critically important because policies and decisions are being made in Hartford that may impact your organization and the people you serve.”  
 – Jeff Shaw, CT Association of Nonprofits

**Prepping nonprofits for Giving Day 2016**

Fairfield County Giving Day, now in its third year, provides nonprofits with a great opportunity to raise money, increase awareness about their organization and, since it is a crowdfunding campaign, utilize social media to reach new supporters. To help

“As the Executive Director of a small nonprofit, this workshop gave me the skills to create a social media plan that will help me engage my volunteers. The facilitator also showed us how to create a compelling video to tell our story. This was so effective!”  
 – Giving Day workshop participant

nonprofits prepare, we launched a *new* training series in November 2015. A total of 127 participants representing 104 nonprofit organizations attended the three-part series to learn how to better tell their story and communicate impact, use social media to engage donors and supporters, and retain the donors that contribute to their organization.

**Support the Center for Nonprofit Excellence.** Join us in investing in the future of Fairfield County – by building the capacity and impacting the sustainability of hundreds of local nonprofits.

**UPCOMING WORKSHOP SCHEDULE**

**Results-Based Accountability: The Basics**  
 Date: Wednesday, January 20  
 Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

**Leader, Mentor, Coach: Supervisory Skills**  
 Date: Wednesday, March 16  
 Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm

**Essential Business Skills Series: A Guide to Delivering Professional Presentations**  
 Date: Thursday, April 14  
 Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

**Essential Business Skills Series: Effective Project Management**  
 Date: Thursday, May 12  
 Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

**Purposeful Boards and Powerful Fundraising**  
 Date: Tuesday, May 24  
 Time: 9:00am – 3:30pm

**Essential Business Skills Series: Building Basic Finance Skills**  
 Date: Thursday, June 9  
 Time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

**Lunch and Learn – Maximizing Philanthropic Impact Through Planned Giving**  
 Date: Wednesday, June 22  
 Time: 12:00pm – 1:30pm

For complete workshop descriptions and online registration, please visit [FCCFoundation.org](http://FCCFoundation.org).



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TOGETHER WE THRIVE

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