

NEOA Arnold L. Mitchem Leadership Institute for 2020-2021

Director, Craig Werth

About the Institute – Established in 1998, the NEOA Leadership Institute is designed to provide participants an opportunity to build strong leadership skills and, in turn, enhance their ability to expand educational opportunities for the students with whom they work. The Institute will provide up to 14 members a year-long exploration of leadership styles and practice, working with experts from both within and outside the TRIO/GEAR UP/EOP community. Participants will engage in a variety of experiences, designed and expertly facilitated, to strengthen their individual abilities and the programs they serve. They will work collaboratively with EOP professionals from across New England; examining their careers and achievements; setting and/or rededicating themselves to short-term and long-term goals; and confronting professional challenges with new and renewed awareness, insight, creativity and confidence.

The Institute Design - The Institute will meet at the Marie-Joseph Retreat Center in Biddeford Pool, Maine (south-eastern Maine) for three, 3-day sessions in the months of October, January and March, -- from 1:00 PM on Day 1 to 1:00 PM on Day 3. We will also have a final meeting and group presentation at the NEOA Annual Conference in April of 2021. In addition to full participation at all sessions, participants will be expected to read leadership material and complete short assignments between the sessions. The Institute will cover the costs of all programming, lodging and meals during each of the three sessions. *Participants and/or the programs they represent will be expected to cover travel expenses for sessions and costs related to the NEOA Annual conference.* The Institute fee for this year is \$750. This tuition fee is an allowable cost for TRIO and GEAR UP.

Application Process - Individuals interested in applying must submit a 3-part application by August 7, 2020, and must be a current member of NEOA. Participants will be selected by a committee of NEOA Board members based upon the strength of the application, with special attention given to the personal statement and to the applicant's demonstrated commitment to his/her community and profession. The committee will select some participants who have considerable TRIO/GEAR UP/EOP experience and some who are relatively new. The compliment of "seasoned" and new participants has created a potently positive synergy in the past. The selection committee will strive to ensure that each class of participants represents the rich diversity of the NEOA membership and includes participation from different ethnic groups, programs, and geographic areas of our region.

From Craig – I'm proud to serve as Institute director for this, my fourth term. I humbly follow in the footsteps of some amazing leaders – most of whom I have known very well. My history with the Institute goes back to the first meeting in which the concept was formed in 1997. I was a participant myself in one of the earliest classes, and I served as a presenter for several more years. My enduring connection with NEOA through this role is a great honor and opportunity for me – to reconnect, to put in practice my own leadership style, and to guide and learn from the community of educational opportunity champions who will form the class of 2020-2021. After reviewing this information and the application process, please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any comments or questions. Thanks very much for your interest and attention. Thanks also to the Board of NEOA for their support and trust, and to previous directors, especially Gerry Ellis and Sigh Searles, who provided support and an excellent foundation of work for me to draw from and build upon.

Craig Werth, Director craigwerth.leadership@gmail.com, 603-327-9792

