

## NEOA Arnold L. Mitchem Leadership Institute for 2022-23

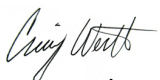
Director, Craig Werth

**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 cultivate deep self-awareness, and strengthen their individual abilities and the programs they serve. They will work collaboratively with fellow 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 renewed awareness, insight, creativity and confidence.

**The Institute Design and Cost** - 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 November, 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 2023. In addition to full participation at all sessions, participants will be expected to read leadership material and complete short assignments between the sessions. NEOA will cover the costs of programming, lodging and meals during each of the three sessions, except for the following: *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** – Applicants must submit a 3-part application by August 24, 2022, and 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 their community and profession. The committee will select some participants who have considerable experience and some who are relatively new. The compliment of “seasoned” and new participants has created a potentially 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 fifth 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 2022-23. After reviewing this information and the application process, please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any comments or questions. Thanks 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](mailto:craigwerth.leadership@gmail.com), 603-327-9792