

2017 Duke Leadership Academy Scholars & Quotes



“The Duke Leadership Academy has given me the opportunity to learn about the keys to effective leadership and has allowed me to hear from leaders at Duke and beyond about their leadership journeys. A further benefit has been getting to know my classmates, who come from all corners of Duke, many of whom I have established friendships with that will last years to come.”

— Adem Gusa





“The Duke Leadership Academy gave me the invaluable opportunity to learn how others perceive me as a leader and to understand how I can build on my strengths and continue to develop in all leadership domains. As well as providing avenues for self-study, the Academy also put me in a position to explore how Duke University functions and about the values of our institution and its leadership.”

– Allison Belan





"DLA is a unique opportunity to interact with leaders across campus. It has added deeply to my Duke experience."

— Ana Sanchez, Ph.D.



“The Duke Leadership Academy affords us the opportunity to learn about Sim Sitkin’s Six Domains of Leadership. It provides us an all so interesting 360 evaluation. DLA give us a chance to collaborate with peers on a team project. However, my favorite is learning about the leadership journey of various leaders across Duke. Hearing each talk about their personal journey is very motivating because they talk about things we all can relate to. I also found Dr. Schultz’s presentation on presentations to be extremely beneficial.”

— Angie Keith



"If it doesn't challenge you, it
won't change you."

– Blyth Morrell



“The Duke Leadership Academy really revealed the astounding depth and breadth of impact Duke can have in the local community. Seeing so many diverse, talented, and ambitious folks doing so much good work in so many different ways throughout the organization, you can’t help but be aspirational for the future of what we can do here.”

— Brian Humphries



“Working with people on the group project across disciplines was invaluable. It’s easy to become fixed in an approach to viewing and solving problems, so working with the team helped break that down for me. Also, the skills people bring are impressive.

Sim is engaging, and the guest speakers the last months were all impressive and inspirational.”

– Bruce Elvin



“One of Jack Bovender’s comments still resounds with me and can be summed up as always be humble. To be a great leader others have to follow, by being humble one is more inclined to listen first and decide later.”

– Carolyn Mackman



“The DLA has allowed me exposure to exceptional leadership qualities and proficiencies while providing connections to phenomenal leaders throughout the university. I am very appreciative for this invaluable opportunity.”

— Debra Palmer



"My time in the Duke Leadership Academy has been thought provoking, challenging, and inspiring. I value the time I've spent with the other scholars and the relationships that have been created."

– Don Witten



"My year in the DLA has been a great experience. It was energizing to be surrounded by and teamed with such sharp and dynamic thinkers."

– Eamonn Lanigan



“Attending the 2017 Duke Leadership Academy was inspiring on a multitude of levels. The program gave me exposure to leaders from a variety of departments and disciplines across Duke, providing me with a group of peers whom I can reach-out to as needed. The lecturers were extremely knowledgeable and provided valuable insights. And the project component tied leadership development to Duke related projects and initiatives that could potentially have an impact on our community.”

– Jen Vizas



“My biggest takeaway is the connections made with others from across campus.”



– Joe Stewart



“DLA provided the opportunity to investigate and model critical behaviors and relating them back to my style, while forging new relationships through this cohort.”

— John Robinson



"The Duke Leadership Academy has provided an incredibly rich learning opportunity . . . I have expanded my leadership ability by learning about myself and others, interacted with a cadre of senior leaders and learning facilitators, worked collaboratively with colleagues (now new friends) from across the institution, and deepen my commitment to and appreciation of Duke."

– Julie Cusatis



"I really enjoyed interacting with colleagues at different parts of Duke. I've been at Duke a long time but had not had that opportunity until now."

– Kelly Soderberg, Ph.D.



"I have enjoyed the leadership academy and gained much from it. Just being given an opportunity to participate is amazing."

– Nancy Love



"I was told before I started the leadership academy that despite what I thought it would teach me about dealing with other employees, co-workers, etc., I would actually end up learning more about myself and how to deal with 'Her' and this was absolutely true!"

— Malissa Harris



"The Leadership Academy has been an extremely positive experience. I have grown both personally and professionally in this program and made some great friends to boot!"

– Nicki Charles



"It's not often that we have the chance to spend a year with incredible faculty and administrators learning and reflecting on leadership. This experience has been a gift, and one that I will take with me throughout the rest of my time at Duke."

— Nicole Kempton



“DLA has been a great experience which broadened my view of Duke. Through this program, I met staff from Duke departments and units that I wouldn’t normally interact with and wouldn’t know how they fit in the overall Duke fabric. DLA helped me forge meaningful connections with colleagues in these units and gave me the opportunity to learn about them and their departments.”

– Pakis Bessias



“I think that it was very beneficial to get insights from so many different types of leaders. I really enjoyed the format of having different speakers rather than being taught by the same instructor throughout the course.”

– Quinn James



“As a new member of the Duke community, I appreciated the opportunity to learn from the insightful, diverse perspectives of my peers in DLA. I know that I have built collegial relationships that will continue as I grow in my own leadership skills and knowledge. I am grateful for Duke’s investment in me and my colleagues’ openness to learning and sharing with me in DLA.”

– Shawna Young



“The Duke Leadership Academy has been an amazing experience and provided the opportunity to interact with a top-notch group of professionals at Duke. We have shared insight, stimulated discussion and learned from each other and it has been a wonderful program. The networking exposure will continue to benefit us in our coming years at

– Sierra Foxx



“The DLA was a wonderful way to meet colleagues from across Duke and share best practices. I enjoyed learning about others’ professional worlds and have a new respect for the broad spectrum of research, health care and education that Duke provides.”

– Stephanie Alt Lamm



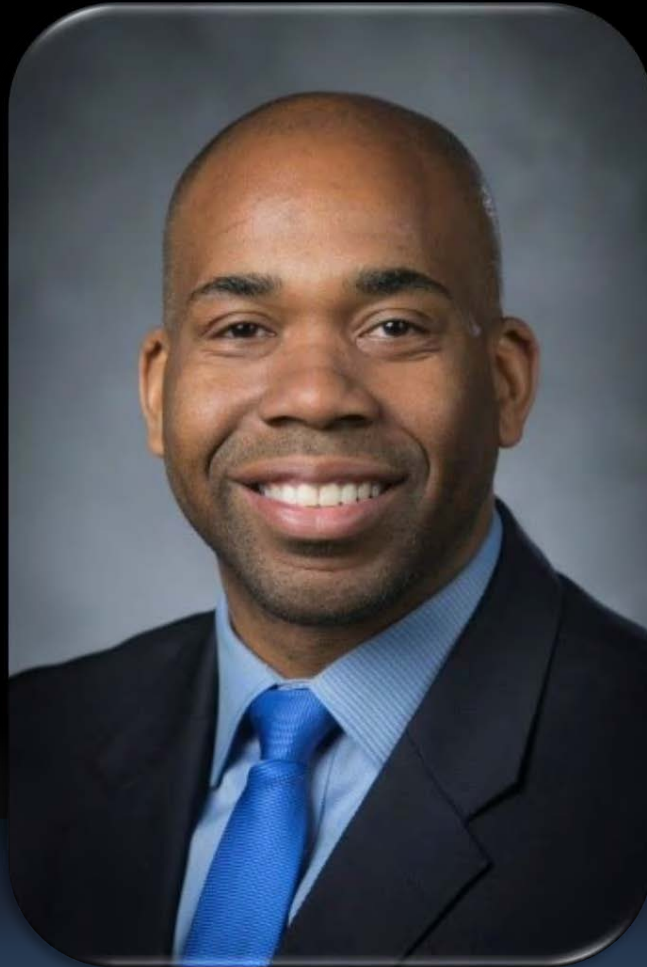
“Attending the Duke Leadership Academy during my first year at Duke was a gift. The instant network of colleagues coupled with the thought-provoking workshops and guest lectures created a program that is top notch. I wish everyone could begin their careers at Duke like this. Kudos to the administration for investing in its future leaders in such a consistent and visible way.”

—Tracey Temne



“DLA has been a wonderful opportunity to meet, work with, and learn from leaders across Duke. Thank you for inspiring and investing in my professional growth!”

– Vera Luck



"The DLA Experience gave me a new level of introspection and understanding about how to be a positive influence and a supportive leader for the individuals around me at and outside of work."

– Willie Green



"You cannot discover new oceans
unless you have the courage to
lose sight of the shore."

- Daniel Abraham

Keisha Williams