

2021 Duke Leadership Academy  
Scholars and Quotes



“Transitioning to a new leadership position, managing Staff and Students’ needs and changes during the pandemic, made participating in DLA a challenge at times. However, it is hard to imagine “leading during these times” without pausing to learn, reflect and apply the insights from DLA!”

- Alyssa Perez



"DLA program provided me some resources and tools to learn how to better lead my team. It was great meeting other managers within the organization and how they resolved various issues. Best part of the program was the team that I worked with for the final project."

- Amy Orange



“Fantastic opportunity to develop and apply leadership strategies and skills during unique and challenging times!”

- Andrea Doughty



“DLA was a tremendous opportunity to think deeply about our jobs as leaders and how we can do them better.”

- Andrew Park



- Anna Li



"I valued the opportunity DLA provided for me to get to know colleagues from across the university. My project group became an important source of support and camaraderie, as all of us juggled new forms of work and our ongoing caregiving responsibilities during the pandemic."

- Anne Mitchell Whisnant





“Although we had to change the way the program was delivered, the content and the relationships I developed was both meaningful and rewarding.”

- Beverly Harris





"DLA provided me with the opportunity to strengthen my leadership and mentoring skills. The lessons I take away from this experience were the result of participating in the insightful seminars and collaborating with my amazing team."

- Carmen Rawls



“DLA allowed me to see the leader I was...  
and lean into the leader I could become.  
Thank you!”

-Christina Holder



“DLA was a tremendous opportunity to learn and think more broadly about a variety of contemporary leadership concepts from experts in the field and Duke colleagues.”

- Crystal Arthur



"I enrolled in DLA to develop a foundation for carrying out the vision of my Chair for my department. I made cherished connections and gained tools to become a better leader, manager, mentor, and coach."

- Crystal Chapman



"We certainly have enhanced our leadership knowledge and skills over the past year but, we also have formed new friendships, explored different ideas and ways of thinking, learned more about the vastness of Duke, and enjoyed the comradery of good teammates."

- Debra Taylor



"It's been a great honor and privilege to be part of DLA and a member of this year's group of attendees. This forum has provided me a grand opportunity to network with other leaders. It enabled me to listen and learn from distinguished individuals."

- Edward De La Garza



“DLA was an incredible experience for me. I felt empowered by the course content and more confident to lead projects and teams. I’m humbled to be part of this amazing organization and surrounded by so many great leaders.”

- Heather Hughes





“DLA afforded me the opportunity to step outside of my daily work and see the big picture at Duke. It gave me the tools to tackle big problems with a diverse team requiring time and balance to meet our goals.”

- Jeanine Sato



"I enjoyed the breadth of material covered in the class, and it was enriching to develop such a strong professional relationship with my teammates."

- John Haws



“President Price says that he sees himself as a “servant leader”, and that style works really well in academia, but not necessarily in other places. For me, personal fulfillment is really about being able to be yourself and be the right person for the job.”

- Katie Kilroy



“If I had to do this all over again, I would skip the pandemic part. The program is informative, engaging and challenging. Working with my Team was really a highlight, as we explored a relevant topic and I found the team interaction to be useful, enjoyable and therapeutic.”

- Keith Hurka-Owen



“DLA had an uncanny ability to deliver a leadership lesson at just the time that I needed help with finding motivation to keep my growth on track. It kept me on track through personal reflection, as well as building emotional intelligence, empathy, and connection.”

- Lauren Chisholm



"My favorite aspect of the DLA course was meeting the wonderful people that work in other parts of Duke and better understanding what they all do."

- Lydia Olander



"DLA provided the tools to make me a better manager through learning about the six domains of leadership, connecting with my teammates, and collaborating on a capstone project."

- Michelle Maynard





“One of the greatest benefits I experienced with DLA was the exposure to additional leaders at Duke. Networking with DLA participants provided opportunities to discuss and brainstorm solutions to challenges we all face as leaders in the community.”

- Michelle Rigsbee



“Taking part in the seminars and activities of DLA during COVID was a challenge, but I found it forced me to take time out to focus on something of value – my own personal growth.”

- Rebecca Brouwer



"Participating in DLA was a fantastic experience of learning, collaborating, and imagining what is possible with my talented and gifted team. We all genuinely thrived into innovative ways of serving and supporting our Duke community."

- Regina Graham



“This has been a very enriching experience! It has been a great opportunity to gain insight into the many facets of leadership, and to put principles into practice while developing real-world solutions with colleagues from across Duke.”

- Regina Nowicki de Guerra



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

**- Keisha Williams**