

## **BLC Leads FAQs**

### **What is the program?**

BLC Leads is designed to prepare emerging leaders in BLC libraries to enhance their leadership roles in and across their institutions. The program curriculum includes customized, experiential approaches to strategy and alignment, resource allocation, influential communication and collaboration. It is designed to provide participants with tools to help improve strategic thinking and leadership potential.

### **Why is BLC offering this program?**

BLC libraries operate within rapidly evolving and increasingly complex environments. The BLC Board of Directors is invested in supporting talent management and conceived of this program to support leadership and succession planning efforts by creating experiences for library professionals to learn with and from seasoned library and higher education leaders, and each other. BLC Leads intends to prepare library professionals who demonstrate leadership potential to take on increasingly demanding roles in BLC libraries.

### **Who should apply?**

BLC library professionals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership potential in today's challenging and changing library environment and who are interested in pursuing increasingly responsible management positions in academic and research libraries are encouraged to speak with their direct supervisor and/or library director about applying.

### **What is the time commitment?**

The BLC Leads 2020 program runs from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (June 15, 2020) through a closing institute November 11-12, 2020. Participants are expected to attend an orientation meeting at the conclusion of the Anniversary Celebration, a 3 day in-person institute in June, and a 2 day closing institute in November. In addition to these events, there are two 90 minute virtual learning sessions in late Summer and Fall, and site visits with the directors of BLC member libraries. Throughout the program, participants will read relevant articles and reflect on the program content and lessons learned.

### **Is there a maximum number of participants from one institution?**

While we have not had a formal limit in the past, the BLC Management Council agreed to a maximum of 2 from a given library with exceptions possible based on space availability or other Board approved exceptions. However, a library that requests more than 2 representatives, must be able to pay full tuition for at least the first 2 participants.

### **Where will the program be held?**

One of the strengths of BLC Leads is providing a broad understanding of leadership concepts as well as different approaches among different libraries. To facilitate this, the program is a

hybrid of online and in-person educational experiences, including a kick-off meeting at Brandeis University, two 90-minute online sessions scheduled July-October, several site visits throughout New England and two in-person institutes. Meeting and institute locations are:

- An initial orientation meeting in conjunction with the BLC's 50th Anniversary Celebration at Brandeis University (June 15th, 2020)
- An opening three-day in-person institute at the Hawthorne Hotel, Salem, MA (June 16th-June 18th, 2020)
- Two webinars related to issues and trends most pressing for current and future library and higher education leaders (Summer & Fall 2020)
- Site visits to BLC member libraries throughout and following
- A two-day closing institute at the Hotel UMass, Amherst, MA (November 11th-November 12th, 2020)

**How do I apply for BLC Leads?**

Please send an application packet addressed to Susan Stearns, BLC Executive Director, as explained in the [Application Instructions](#).