



IACP Leadership Academy Testimonials

This is what prior Leadership Academy grads have said about the program...

“I love Collaborative Practice. It has helped me attain my goal of opening up a Collaborative Law Center and made my life, work and personal, happier and more fulfilling. I also took my responsibility of bringing what I learned in the Leadership Academy back to my community seriously. This Collaborative Community has benefitted by my involvement on many levels, from getting a shot of energy and involvement in leadership, by my encouraging others to get involved in leadership, by bringing back new ideas from the experience to expand Collaborative Practice in our State, and by my helping our local practitioners understand at a deeper level what IACP has to offer to help them in a broad range of areas.”

-Kevin Scudder, Seattle, Washington

“The Leadership Academy introduced me to new people, ideas, and concepts that would greatly impact my community and my practice. The explosive growth of Collaborative Practice in Florida can be, at least in part, directly tied to the lessons I learned both from our instructors and my fellow students, including bringing a version of the Academy to our state. And the friends I made in the Leadership Academy, with whom I have now co-trained and published a book, will last a lifetime.”

-Adam B. Cordover, Tampa, Florida

“The Leadership Academy gave me new perspectives on leadership and made me a better leader at my law firm, my practice group, our provincial organization and internationally. I am now serving in a leadership role at all levels, including on the IACP Board of Directors. I learned a lot and enjoyed meeting so many other like-minded leaders. It put me on a positive trajectory. I am grateful for this experience.”

-Brian Galbraith, Barrie, Ontario,

“The Leadership Academy introduced me to Collaborative colleagues from around the world who were equally passionate about working with people going through family conflict within a respectful and holistic process. The training strengthened my understanding of leadership, and it made me aware of the variety of skills necessary to be an effective and inclusive leader. I benefitted from acquiring insight into my own unique strengths and skills, as well as discovering areas I needed to work on. At the time I was the Chair of my local practice group, and stayed in that role for several more years, putting into practice many of the lessons learned in the Institute. I joined the board of the provincial Collaborative umbrella group, and I am now President of the Ontario Association of Collaborative Professionals, which represents 20 Collaborative Practice groups across the province.”

-Joelle B. Adelson, Meaford, Ontario

“Participating in the Leadership Academy impacted my life in two significant ways. First, I learned a lot about leadership, leadership styles, and that one size doesn’t fit all situations. Different times call for different styles of leadership. Second, I made new friends and have continued to work closely with fellow academy graduates. Knowing more about my leadership style--the strengths and the weaknesses--has allowed me to do a better job of leading, both in my Collaborative organizations and also in my law firm.”

-Kristin A. Algert, Austin, Texas

“The Leadership Academy helped me to become more involved in Collaborative Law in my own practice as well as in my community. Working with other determined members in Collaborative Law Association of Southwestern Pennsylvania (CLASP), we were able to provide information and spread the word to non-collaborative attorneys, bringing more non-collaborative lawyers into our Association, as well as continuing and growing our educational resources for non-collaborative attorneys. Our focus was always on the benefits of Collaborative Law and increasing our Collaborative case load.”

-Deborah Conflenti, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

“We learned what was happening within the practice in other parts of the world, and we came together to share our wisdom and experience in order to make Collaborative Practice more diverse and the most sought after process option available to families going through separation and divorce.”

-Nikki Charlton, Vancouver, British Columbia

“It is a great networking opportunity that allows deeper connections to be built with people from around the world. Great friendships have happened because of the Academy. The learnings from the Academy are relevant and applicable to being a better leader. It expands your vision of and skills in leadership and helps us realize we are part of something much greater outside our local communities. You have a new network of practitioners to support you afterwards. I appreciated the opportunity to get to know our wise trainers in a way that would otherwise not be possible.”

-Louise E. Livesay-Al, St. Paul, Minnesota

“The Leadership Academy was an incredible experience. I was honoured to have been selected to join a fantastic group of consensual dispute resolution minded professionals each committed to learn from each other and to grow and develop with each other. It was an investment in time, money and energy and the rewards have far outweighed any perceived cost. I highly recommend it!!”

-Bev Churchill, Kelowna, British Columbia

“I was delighted to be a part of the Leadership Academy. There is no question that it helped me make the paradigm shift in a deeper way and allowed me to grow personally and professionally. In the time since we graduated, I have taken on several officer positions in our

local Collaborative community and initiated some challenging discussions concerning ethics. The insistence on those discussions was a leadership role I would never have taken on without the experience of the Leadership Institute. I am clearly an informal as well as formal leader in our community and have a very active Collaborative caseload. I am confident that my participation was a benefit to me and to my local community. I have also felt more comfortable doing the marketing that is important to our sustainable future as Collaborative practitioners. I would encourage any and all Collaborative practitioners to consider applying for the next Leadership Academy. It created a safe and trusting community in which to learn, grow, and return those gifts to my local practice group.”

-Susan J. Buniva, Richmond, Virginia

Here are just some of the achievements accomplished and positions held by prior Leadership Academy graduates:

- IACP Executive Council
- IACP Board of Directors
- IACP Committee Chairs
- Collaborative Trainers
- Collaborative Professionals of Canada Acting Chair
- Collaborative Practice Washington President
- Collaborative Law Institute of Minnesota Co-President
- Ontario Association of Collaborative Professionals President
- Practice Group Presidents and Co-Chairs