

# PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATION POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2019-2020 APPLICATION FORM



- Pennsylvania's Premier Education Policy Leadership Program
- 575+ graduates: 1999 to 2019
- 2019-2020 EPFP Begins in September

#### EPFP Fellows:

- develop a broadened understanding of the public policy process and the various aspects of education policy;
- enhance their communication and decision making skills;
- strengthen their capacity for leadership; and
- expand their network of professional colleagues.

## *Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program*

The Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) is a professional development program for individuals whose work record reflects strong leadership abilities and a concern for issues important to children and education.

Participants in the Fellowship Program usually hold full-time positions in diverse organizations at the local, state, and national levels.

The program is available in Pennsylvania through The Education Policy and Leadership Center (EPLC). The nationally recognized EPFP was established more than 50 years ago by the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) in Washington, DC. IEL continues to support the program through its network of state affiliates.

### **How is the EPFP different from other professional development programs?**

EPFP is supported by a national and state network of resource people and peers who have a track record of accomplishment in research, policy development, and effective practice in education, child development, and human services.

In addition, a unique partnership with the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania provides EPFP Fellows with training in strategic leadership concepts.

The EPFP provides a comprehensive approach to knowledge and skill-building with a two-day opening retreat, nine full-day seminars in Harrisburg, one regional leadership forum, and one national policy seminar during a ten-month period.

The Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program is sponsored by:

The Education Policy and Leadership  
Center  
P.O. Box 25  
Camp Hill, PA 17001  
[www.eplc.org](http://www.eplc.org)

Ron Cowell, Executive Director  
E-mail: [cowell@eplc.org](mailto:cowell@eplc.org)

For more information and to request additional applications, please call (412) 298-4796 or e-mail Ron Cowell at [cowell@eplc.org](mailto:cowell@eplc.org).



**EPFP Class of 2018-2019**

Please visit the EPLC web site, [eplc.org](http://eplc.org), for the full list of more than 575 Pennsylvania EPFP Fellows, 1999 to 2019.

Enrollment is limited. Please apply early.

The EPFP has provided a forum to learn more about the political landscape that, for better or worse, shapes and shifts my role as an education leader. The presentations, networking, project development, and Washington seminar provided many stimulating conversations that challenged perspectives. This was a learning experience that has increased my ability to navigate the ever-changing world of education.

Melanie M. Calender, Ed.D. (EPFP 2016-2017)  
Assistant Superintendent, Warwick School District

After serving 18 years on my school board, the EPFP was exactly what I needed to motivate and inspire me to continue my strong, active commitment to public education. I also have a much better understanding of policy advocacy. The opportunity to network with so many education leaders is unique. The topics we covered included guest speakers who were all highly qualified in their areas of expertise. The Washington Policy Seminar and the two days in Gettysburg and at the U.S. Army War College were invaluable.

Art Levinowitz, Ph.D., (EPFP 2016-2017)  
School Board President, School District of Upper Dublin

The experiences throughout the year have been outstanding. I could never have imagined gaining such knowledge that I can use in my career as an educator and even in my personal life. The connections made with the guest speakers and especially with the other Fellows will be treasured for a lifetime. While I have always had an interest in policy and advocacy for the education and wellness of our youth, I have been highly rewarded in learning more and becoming even more motivated to keep learning how it all works.

Sandy Shacklady-White (EPFP 2018-2019)  
Educational Consultant,  
PA Training and Technical Assistance Network

The EPFP has allowed me to experience more divergent points of view than in my 30 years working in education. I've learned to think globally and understand multiple points of view, which helps to move education policy forward.

Michael D. Pawlik (EPFP 2016-2017)  
Superintendent, East Lycoming School District

The PA Education Policy Fellowship Program has been the most meaningful professional development opportunity of my career in education. Through the fellowship, I gained a strong understanding of statewide education policy issues and the overall policy making process, key stakeholders, and how to turn a simple idea into an effective policy proposal. I strongly recommend this opportunity to anyone passionate about education and looking for ways to increase their effectiveness in this field!

Ayana Lewis, Esq. (EPFP 2018-2019)  
Director of Strategic Partnerships, School District of Philadelphia

The Education Policy Fellowship Program brings together a diverse cohort of professionals from education, government, military, human services, business, and community organizations.

**You are invited to apply if you have:**

- A track record of making things happen – inside and across agencies/organizations.
- A full-time professional position and substantive work experience.
- A bachelor's degree or its equivalent.
- The endorsement and financial support of your employing organization.
- A commitment to personal and professional development.

**What is my commitment if I am accepted as an EPFP Fellow?**

- Participate in a two-day opening retreat and nine full-day seminars in Harrisburg over a ten-month period.
- Participate in a regional leadership forum (October) and a national policy seminar (March).
- Share your experience and knowledge with other Fellows through presentations, class discussion, and class projects.
- Conduct independent study and research to expand on issues explored in the program.

**How will my organization benefit from my participation in the EPFP?**

Employers gain:

- Access to a professional development program with a proven track record.
- Better informed, more skillful employees.
- Employees who are ready to assume more leadership responsibilities.
- Expanded networks that enhance the organization's ability to access key leaders and decision makers who shape policy on behalf of children and education.

**What is my employer's commitment in supporting my participation?**

- Provide release time for your participation in the Harrisburg seminars, the regional forum, and the national seminar.
- Pay a tuition fee of \$2,995 plus all travel-related costs for the regional and national meetings and Harrisburg seminars.

*(If the applicant's schedule or budget will not enable participation in the March 2020 national policy seminar, a slightly discounted tuition rate may be available for the program without the national elements. Contact Ron Cowell at EPLC for details.)*

**Does participation in the EPFP qualify for Act 48 and SBA credits?**

- The EPFP is not an approved Act 48 credit provider.
- EPLC is approved to provide State Board of Accountancy (SBA) credit to certified public accountants.

## Pennsylvania EPFP 2019-2020 Calendar and Agenda

Opening Retreat:	<b>SESSION LOCATIONS</b> Radisson Hotel Harrisburg
Regional Leadership Forum:	Gettysburg Battlefield and U.S. Army War College (Carlisle)
Monthly Seminars:	PASBO/PASA Headquarters, Harrisburg
Day-on-the-Hill Harrisburg:	PA Department of Education/State Capitol
<b>DATE</b>	<b>SEMINAR TOPICS</b>
<b>Opening Retreat Day 1</b> Thursday, September 19 12:00 pm - 8:30 pm	<b>Introductions and Setting the Stage for EPFP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The “State of Education” in Pennsylvania</li> <li>▪ Context for Education Issues: Changes, Trends, and Forecast</li> <li>▪ Intersection of Local-State-Federal Education Policy</li> <li>▪ Politics, Elections, and Public Policy in Pennsylvania</li> <li>▪ Overview of Key Pennsylvania Education Policy Issues</li> </ul>
<b>Opening Retreat Day 2</b> Friday, September 20 8:30 am - 3:00 pm	<b>Making Public Policy in Pennsylvania</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fundamentals of Education Policymaking</li> <li>▪ Policy Players, Media, and the Process</li> <li>▪ Roles of the State Board of Education and IRRC</li> <li>▪ Roles of School Districts and School Boards</li> <li>▪ Role of Research in Education Policy</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Leadership Forum, Part 1</b> Thursday, October 10 10:00 am - 8:00 pm <i>(Joint Activity with Fellows from D.C., MI, NY, and OH)</i>	<b>Lessons in Leadership on the Gettysburg Battlefield</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guided tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield with Focus on Strategic Decisions that Directed the Actions of Union and Confederate Armies</li> <li>▪ Visit to Gettysburg Battlefield Visitors Center and Museum</li> <li>▪ Travel to Carlisle, Networking Reception, and PA EPFP Dinner</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Leadership Forum, Part 2</b> Friday, October 11 8:30 am - 3:00 pm <i>(Activity with Other States)</i>	<b>Lessons in Strategic Leadership from U.S. Army War College Faculty</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Leadership Lessons Learned from Gettysburg</li> <li>▪ Leadership and Managing Change</li> <li>▪ Strategic Thinking for Leaders</li> </ul>
<b>Session 1</b> Friday, October 25 10:00 am - 4:30 pm	<b>Leadership and Ethics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Definitions and Characteristics of Ethical Leadership</li> <li>▪ Ethical Leadership Challenges in Various Organizations</li> <li>▪ Leaders as Change Agents in Public Education</li> <li>▪ Leadership for Diversity and Equity</li> </ul>
<b>Session 2</b> Friday, November 15 10:00 am - 4:30 pm	<b>A Changing Education Environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Needs of An Increasingly Diverse and Mobile Student Population</li> <li>▪ Equity and Poverty—Implications for Policymakers &amp; Educators</li> <li>▪ ESSA and Standards, Assessment, and Accountability</li> <li>▪ Recruiting, Preparing, Supporting, and Evaluating Educators</li> </ul>
<b>Session 3</b> Friday, December 6 10:00 am - 4:30 pm	<b>Ready for Success in College, Career, and Citizenship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nurturing an Educated Citizenry and Educated Workforce</li> <li>▪ Ready for Success—21st Century Skills, Counseling, and 339 Plans</li> <li>▪ Early Education</li> <li>▪ STEM and Career and Technical Education</li> </ul>
<b>Session 4</b> Friday, January 17 10:00 am - 4:30 pm	<b>School Choices, Technology, and Arts and Culture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Vouchers, Charters, Home School, and Public School Choices</li> <li>▪ Using Technology to Support Educational Choices and Equity</li> <li>▪ The Arts, Museums, Libraries, and Lifelong Learning</li> </ul>
<b>Session 5</b> Thursday, February 6 10:00 am - 4:30 pm	<b>Building Partnerships and Public Advocacy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Family, School, Community Partnerships, and Parent Engagement</li> <li>▪ Collaboration and Building Coalitions</li> <li>▪ Effective Advocacy - Making an Impact with Public Officials</li> </ul>
<b>Session 6</b> Friday, February 28 10:00 am - 4:30 pm	<b>P-12 Education Finance Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ History and Fundamentals of P-12 Finance in Pennsylvania</li> <li>▪ Governor’s Proposed 2020-2021 State Education Budget</li> <li>▪ Budget Process and Challenges for School District Officials</li> <li>▪ PA State Budget and Revenues: Forecast, Priorities, and Options</li> </ul>
<b>National EPFP Meeting</b> March 22-25 (Noon to Noon)	<b>Washington Policy Seminar</b> Washington, DC—Marriott Wardman Hotel & U.S. Capitol
<b>Session 7</b> Friday, April 17 10:00 am - 4:30 pm	<b>Postsecondary Education Policy Issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Governance and Funding of Higher Education</li> <li>▪ Postsecondary Education Access, Affordability, and Quality</li> <li>▪ Linking Education and Workforce Development Policy</li> </ul>
<b>Session 8</b> Friday, May 8 10:00 am - 4:30 pm	<b>Group Project Reports: Contributing to the Education Policy Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Washington Policy Seminar Debrief</li> <li>▪ Teams Present Project Reports</li> </ul>
<b>Session 9</b> Tuesday, May 19 10:00 am - 4:30 pm	<b>Day at the State Capitol</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Morning Briefings by Key Education Policy Staff</li> <li>▪ Visits to Legislative Offices - Present Project Briefings</li> <li>▪ Optional Tour of State Capitol</li> </ul>
<b>Graduation Luncheon</b> Noon - Wednesday, June 10	<b>Graduation and Recognition of Fellows and Sponsors</b> Radisson Hotel Harrisburg

The Fellowship Program is an excellent opportunity to learn from the leaders and policy makers in Pennsylvania and Washington whose decisions impact the students in our classrooms every day. The exchange of ideas, the knowledge and commitment of the staff, and the relationships built throughout the year offer a rich and varied learning experience unlike any other.

W. Gerard Oleksiak (EPFP 2011-2012)  
Vice President, Pennsylvania State Education Association

The Fellowship Program has provided a thorough study of education policy and the dynamics of policymaking at the state and federal levels. This experience has invigorated me to advocate for all students to have access to a high-quality, well-rounded, and well-funded public education.

Ronald Sofo, Ph.D. (EPFP 2014-2015)  
CEO/Principal, City Charter Public High School

The Fellowship Program has been instrumental in my development and growth as a school leader. After each session, I genuinely felt that I had gained a deeper insight and understanding of the issues that face public education and higher education, and the plausible solutions needed.

Siobhan Leavy, Ed.D. (EPFP 2016-2017)  
Director of Pupil Services, Coatesville Area School District  
Chester County Intermediate Unit

The Fellowship Program has provided me a deep understanding about how policy affects and influences education. The EPFP content, presenters, and opportunities to network have served as valuable learning experiences and I would encourage others who are interested in the education and policy world connection to participate in this program.

Christine Anne Royce, Ed.D. (EPFP 2014-2015)  
Professor and Chairperson, Department of Teacher Education, Shippensburg University

# PENNSYLVANIA EDUCATION POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Sponsored by The Education Policy and Leadership Center

## 2019-2020 APPLICATION FORM

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Professional Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home County \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home / Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Education (Please cite most recent experience first.)

University/College \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Work Experience (Please list current position first. Feel free to attach additional information about work experience.)

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Employed \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Name & Address \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Employed \_\_\_\_\_

Employer's Name & Address \_\_\_\_\_

SBA Credits

The EPFP is certified to provide State Board of Accountancy (SBA) credits to certified public accountants for all the EPFP sessions. Please check here if you are interested in receiving SBA credits.

SBA Credit \_\_\_\_\_

**The Employer/Sponsor Endorsement on reverse side must be completed for the application to be considered.**

*(If the applicant's schedule or budget will not enable participation in the March 2020 national policy seminar, a slightly discounted tuition rate may be available for the program without the national elements. Contact Ron Cowell at EPLC for details.)*



**ENDORSEMENT:**

**TO THE SUPERVISOR/EMPLOYING AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE:**

2019-2020 Pennsylvania EPFP Fellows are expected to participate in a two-day opening retreat and nine full-day seminars in Harrisburg, one regional leadership forum, and one national policy seminar that brings together Fellows from all EPFP sites. The leadership forum is scheduled for October 10-11, 2019, in Gettysburg, PA and at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA. The national policy seminar is scheduled for March 22-25, 2020, in Washington, DC. The program tuition, plus travel-related costs to the leadership forum and the national policy seminar, are paid by the employing agency and/or the Fellow.

Your signature affirms (1) your employee's release time for full participation in the Fellowship Program and (2) payment of program-related costs, including program fee of \$2,995. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Cowell at EPLC, 412-298-4796 or [cowell@epfc.org](mailto:cowell@epfc.org).

*(If the applicant's schedule or budget will not allow participation in the March 2020 national policy seminar, a discounted tuition rate may be available for the program without the national program component.)*

**TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT**

Applicant's Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISOR/SPONSOR**

Supervisor/Sponsor's Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Title \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor's Organization/Institution \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address \_\_\_\_\_

Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED APPLICATION TO:**

Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program  
The Education Policy and Leadership Center  
P.O. Box 25  
Camp Hill, PA 17001

**Enrollment is limited. Please apply early.**

## Pennsylvania Education Policy Fellowship Program Past Seminar Speakers

*Participants in the EPFP will have the opportunity to interact with many of Pennsylvania's leaders and education practitioners, who represent a variety of perspectives on education policy issues. Although this is not an all-inclusive list, the following people have been speakers in past EPFP seminars. Titles and organizations listed are the positions the speakers held at the time of their presentations.*

**Bonita Allen**, President, Pennsylvania PTA

**Colonel Charles D. Allen**, Professor, Department of Command, Leadership and Management, U.S. Army War College

**Jodi Askins**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children

**John Baer**, Author and Political Reporter, Philadelphia Daily News & Philadelphia Inquirer

**Dr. Joseph Bard**, Executive Director, PA Association of Rural and Small Schools

**Gene Barr**, President and CEO, PA Chamber of Business and Industry

**Elizabeth Bolden**, Executive Director, PA Commission for Community Colleges

**Judith Bookhamer, Ph.D.**, Executive Director, PA School Counselors Association

**Diane Bosak**, Vice President for Workforce Strategies & Policy, Achieving the Dream

**Lee Burket**, Chief, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

**Robert Caruso**, Executive Director, State Ethics Commission

**Donna Cooper**, Secretary of Policy and Planning, Office of the Governor

**Shane F. Crosby**, Executive Director and Legal Counsel, Professional Standards and Practices Commission

**Dr. Mark D. DiRocco**, Executive Director, PA Association of School Administrators

**Jamie Dunlap**, Director of Arts in Education, PA Council on the Arts

**Dr. Joan Duvall-Flynn**, President, NAACP PA State Conference

**Daniel W. Fogarty**, Director of Workforce Development & COO, Berks County Workforce Development Board

**Tom Foley**, President, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of PA

**Dr. Edward Fuller**, Director, Penn State Center for Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis

**Dr. Peter H. Garland**, Executive Vice Chancellor, Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education

**Thomas Gentzel**, Executive Director, National School Boards Association

**Charlie Gerow**, CEO, Quantum Communications

**Thomas Gluck**, Executive Director, PA Association of Intermediate Units

**Beth Hager**, Director, State Museum of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

**Jay Himes**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials

**Holly Jobe**, President, International Society for Technology in Education

**Robin Jones**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Education Foundations

**Julie Kane**, Policy Director, Pennsylvania Department of Education

**Kari King**, President and CEO, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children

**Mark Lafer**, Proprietor, Mark Lafer Consulting and A College 4U

**Marcus S. Lingenfelter**, Director of State Relations, National Science + Math Initiative

**Maud Lyon**, President, Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance

**Dr. G. Terry Madonna**, Director, Center for Politics & Public Affairs, Franklin & Marshall College

**Nathan G. Mains**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania School Boards Association

**Roberta M. Marcus**, Master School Board President, Parkland School District

**John Maurer**, State Capital Office Coordinator, PA State Data Center

**Carmen M. Medina**, Chief, Division of Student Services, Pennsylvania Department of Education

**Ana Meyers**, Executive Director, PA Coalition of Public Charter Schools

**Glenn R. Miller**, Deputy Secretary for the Office of Commonwealth Libraries/State Librarian, PA Department of Education

**Jeff Miller**, Budget Analyst, House Republican Appropriations Committee

**Karen Molchanow**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania State Board of Education

**Amy C. Morton**, State Coordinator for Pennsylvania, National Institute for School Leadership

**Tim Mulligan**, President/CEO, Communities in Schools of the Lehigh Valley

**Dr. Richard D. Nilsen**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development

**Dr. Hector R. Ortiz**, Director of Health Equity, PA Department of Health

**Shileste Overton-Morris**, Director, Center for Schools and Communities

**Dr. Kyle L. Peck**, Co-Director, Center for Online Innovation in Learning, Penn State University

**John T. Pulver**, Special Project Consultant, Pennsylvania Association of Career & Technical Administrators

**Dr. Linda Rhen**, Assistant Professor of Special Education, Penn State Harrisburg

**Dr. Howard B. Richman**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Homeschoolers Accreditation Agency

**Pedro A. Rivera**, Secretary of Education, PA Department of Education

**Mark J. Ryan**, Deputy Director, Independent Fiscal Office

**Aaron Shenck**, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association of Private School Administrators

**Mark S. Singel**, President, The Winter Group

**Abby Smith**, Director of Education, Team PA Foundation

**Dr. Harris Sokoloff**, Director, Center for School Study Councils, University of Pennsylvania

**Michael Soskil**, 2017-2018 PA Teacher of the Year

**Susan Spicka**, Executive Director, Education Voters of Pennsylvania

**Jessica Stern**, ProEthica, Educational Testing Service

**Rev. Sandra L. Strauss**, Director of Public Advocacy, Pennsylvania Council of Churches

**Dr. John J. "Ski" Sygielski**, President, Harrisburg Area Community College

**Kelli Thompson**, Assistant Director of Government Relations, Pennsylvania State Education Association

**Christopher Wakeley**, Executive Director, House Education Committee

**Ashley Lenker White**, Government Affairs Director and Executive Director, EdPAC, PA School Boards Association

**Kirk Williard, Ed.D.**, Director of Career, Technical & Customized Education, Chester County Intermediate Unit

**Michael Wood**, Executive Budget Manager, Division of Education, Governor's Budget Office, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Dr. Gerald Zahorchak**, Secretary of Education, PA Department of Education

**Steve Zori**, Executive Director, State & District Partnerships, The College Board

## Schedule at a Glance

**Opening Retreat**  
Radisson Hotel Harrisburg  
Thursday, September 19, 2019  
(12:00 pm - 8:30 pm)  
Friday, September 20, 2019  
(8:30 am - 3:00 pm)

**Regional Leadership Forum**  
Gettysburg Battlefield, PA  
U.S. Army War College, Carlisle, PA  
Thursday, October 10, 2019  
Friday, October 11, 2019

**Washington Policy Seminar**  
Sun.-Wed., March 22-25, 2020  
(Noon to Noon)

**Day at the State Capitol**  
Tuesday, May 19, 2020  
(10:00 am - 3:00 pm)

**Monthly Seminars (except for the November and April seminars - see below)**  
10:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Headquarters of PA Association of School Administrators and PA School Business Officials  
Friday, October 25, 2019  
Friday, November 15, 2019  
Friday, December 6, 2019  
Friday, January 17, 2020  
Friday, February 6, 2020  
Friday, February 28, 2020  
Friday, April 17, 2020  
Friday, May 8, 2020

The Harrisburg-area venue for sessions on November 15 and April 17 is TBD

**Graduation Luncheon**  
Noon - 2:30 pm  
Radisson Hotel Harrisburg  
Wednesday, June 10, 2020

The Education Policy and Leadership Center  
P.O. Box 25  
Camp Hill, PA 17001  
(412) 298-4796  
www.eplc.org

Ron Cowell, Executive Director  
E-mail: [cowell@eplc.org](mailto:cowell@eplc.org)

By participating in the EPFP, Fellows develop a broadened understanding of the public policy process and the various aspects of education policy; enhance communication and decision making skills; strengthen their capacity for leadership; and expand their network of professional colleagues.

This program has been extremely valuable to me as a practitioner and has provided me with a network of professionals beyond the scope of K-12 public education. The emphasis on political advocacy will be something I absolutely will carry forward and apply in my role as an administrator.

Alan Hack, Ed.D. (EPFP 2015-2016)  
Assistant Principal  
Warrior Run Middle School

The EPFP highlighted the role that public policy and advocacy plays in education every day. I've used the knowledge and experiences from the program to be more proactive in working with state and national government leaders to discuss how their choices impact the students of Pennsylvania.

Brian Pawling (EPFP 2017-2018)  
Director of Business Affairs  
Souderton Area School District

This program has been invaluable in my growth as an educational leader. It has pushed me beyond my comfort zone, helped me hone skills for successful advocacy, and enabled me to strengthen my network. The EPFP has energized me and provided insight to ignite change.

Dr. Michelle Saylor (EPFP 2014-2015)  
Assistant Superintendent, Bellefonte Area School District

The value of EPLC is that we get to meet a variety of people from the field of education and beyond. The lens we get to see through broadens as do our perspectives due to this program. It has been of great benefit!

Dr. Ryan Axe (EPFP 2017-2018)  
Director of Secondary Education, Warwick School District

This has been one of the best professional development experiences of my career. All of the topics were interesting and timely. Also, the opportunity to interact with education professionals from different areas and backgrounds was invaluable. I highly recommend this program to anyone who is interested in the future of education.

Caroline Johns (EPFP 2015-2016)  
Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning,  
Moon Area School District

The program is an extraordinary experience. It connects you to the information every educational leader needs to understand how we are governed and the organizations that are critical to our field. You are immersed in the policies that guide our field. The professional relationships created within a diverse cohort of peers strikes a balance of theory to practice not seen in most programs.

Eric Stennett, Ed. D. (EPFP 2017-2018)  
Director of the Ed. D. Program, Point Park University