

UPCEA PCO Leader Certificate Program

Why I Chose the PCO Leader Certificate Program

I was looking for a professional development program that was well-rounded, flexible, and affordable. I was familiar with UPCEA so I gravitated toward the program offerings. I applied for and received the Bethaida “Bea” González Diversity in Leadership Scholars Program which is a recognition that I am very proud of.

How I Benefited from the Program

I use what I learned from the certificate every day, particularly when it comes to acknowledging and leveraging the distinctive opportunities that come from being at a PCO. Through the certificate, I learned what questions to ask myself when I am approaching a particular project or challenge and those frameworks have been very clarifying and constructive for me. I was also able to meet many other colleagues working across different kinds of institutions and I benefited from their insights and experiences.

I learned a lot from the featured faculty and leaders that were interviewed for my classes and find myself returning to their reflections when I need an outside perspective.



Billie Gastic Rosado
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Program Highlights

I was only able to complete the certificate because of the flexibility that it offered. I could go through the material and do my work for the course when my schedule permitted. I always looked forward to the interviews with leaders because they were all so generous with their time and the conversations felt like an inside track on how leaders become leaders, how they think about their work, and what advice they have for people in similar organizations who aspire for greater responsibility and impact. I enjoyed the discussion boards because they were a chance to hear from colleagues. I was impressed by how candid and open people were about the challenges that they were helping their institutions navigate. That trust and disclosure made the courses stronger.

There was something comforting about the discussion board and class discussions because they reaffirmed that so many of the external factors impacting our work are found everywhere.

Who Else Might Benefit from this Program?

I would recommend this program to anyone working in a leadership or managerial capacity at a PCO institution who is looking to reflect on their skills, learn from peers and other leaders in the field, and be introduced to new ways of thinking and frameworks to inform decision-making. It is a meaningful commitment of time - and well worth it.

It was very valuable to dedicate the time and space to think about my leadership style and strengths and how they relate to those I work with and manage and the institutional context.