

The NPA Leadership Development Academy

2026 – 2027

The mission of the NPA Leadership Development Academy is to develop and nurture an active pipeline of future NPA leaders which reflects the broad diversity of psychologists in Nebraska.

The purpose of the Leadership Development Academy is to provide opportunities for emerging leaders to:

- develop a deeper understanding of their individual leadership potential and style,
- learn how to be an effective leader in a professional association,
- expand their engagement, experience and mentoring with NPA leaders,
- enhance their leadership skills, and
- learn about significant leadership opportunities in NPA.

Primary Components of Leadership Development Academy

NPA endeavors to host a Leadership Development Academy every two years, initially hosting 2–3 participants with a minimum of one mentor for each academy participant. The 2026–2027 LDA is scheduled to begin Fall 2026. The Leadership Development Academy will consist of the following components:

- Attendance at initial LDA One-Day Training Retreat
- Attendance at two NPA leadership meetings (Board or Committee)
- Attendance at one NPA event – CE program, Meet & Greet, Legislative Breakfast (complimentary registration for selected event)
- Attendance at 3 or 4 Candidate Follow-up Meetings
- Individual or Team project with mentor guidance
- Monthly mentor/participant check-in
- Graduation/Recognition of participants completion of project and LDA

2026–2027 Tentative Timeline

Aug 14, 2026	– Participant Applications Due
Aug, 2026	– Select/notify participants Match mentor/participants
Oct. 7, 2026	– Initial LDA Training Day (via zoom)
Sep 9, 16, or 23, 2026	
Nov 20, 2026	– Candidate Follow-up Meeting (VIA Character Strengths – Lori Wall, PhD)
Jan 15, 2027	– Candidate Follow-up Meeting
Mar 19, 2027	– Candidate Follow-up Meeting
Apr/May, 2027	– Graduation



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Role and Expectations of Mentors

1. Attend initial LDA One-Day Training Retreat.
2. Be in touch with your mentee at least once per month either in person, zoom, phone or email.
3. Discuss what your mentee is learning about personal and professional dimensions of leadership.
4. Discuss project ideas and help them develop and implement a manageable project.
5. Help mentee decide the most effective way to present their project (e.g., an article for NPA e-publication, webinar, presentation).
6. Help mentee to find ways to get involved with NPA (e.g., committee work/ task force.)
7. Explore questions and issues related to professional and leadership development.
8. Follow-up regarding experiences attending Board and/or Committee meetings, or other NPA events (e.g., what are the take-aways?).
9. Check in with your mentee to make sure they are getting the mentoring needed/requested.

Role and Expectations of Participants/Mentees

1. Attend events/meetings identified in the “Primary Components of Leadership Development Academy”
2. Know what you need and want from your faculty mentor.
3. Clarify and share your LDA goals with your mentor.
4. Be in touch with your mentor at least once per month either in person, zoom, phone or email.
5. Discuss what you are learning about personal and professional dimensions of leadership, and this affects your relationships with others. Do you have goals related to your leadership interests?
6. Share your ideas about your LDA project. How does it reflect your professional interests? How is it connected to the mission, goals, strategic plan or some other need of NPA? Is it a manageable project relative to time and resources? What is the end “product”?
7. Explore ways to become involved with NPA (committee/task force, event presenter or organizer, content provider)
8. Explore questions and issues related to your professional and leadership development.
9. Discuss your experiences attending Board meetings and/or Committee meetings, or other NPA events (e.g., what are the take-aways?).
10. Check in with your mentor if you have any questions or concerns.
11. Serve for one year as a member of an NPA Standing Committee of your choice either during the LDA or immediately upon graduation.

Candidate Selection Criteria

1. Current NPA Member; maintain membership throughout LDA.
2. Commitment to attendance at required events.

