

Leading Through DEI

Throughout October, USC Price Executive Education kicked off a major initiative to support public service executives and senior administrators within the diversity, equity, inclusion space. *Leading Through DEI* was an intensive 9-session program aimed to provide skills at the individual, team, and organizational levels and to allow time to pause and reflect.

The program was designed to be action-focused with presenters including public service executives, and leading scholars and consultants in the field and across the US. Participants were from four different states and included a chief of staff, legislative staff, county and city senior administrators, and nonprofit and behavioral health leaders.

“Structural racism has a detrimental effect on what we in the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office hold most sacred: public safety,” District Attorney George Gascón said. “It’s paramount that all working groups particularly those in public service develop and hone their leadership values with the goal of building stronger pipelines to racial and social diversity. USC Price’s Leading Through Diversity, Equity and Inclusion program has helped move my office forward in furthering these crucial efforts.”

On this program specifically, LaVonna Blair Lewis, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion shared, “We miss the very best of the people we get to work with and for when we don’t give them a chance to be really seen and heard. We must focus our attention on the DEI work if we ever hope to close the gaps that we all feel to some degree.”

Leading Through DEI takes many layers. The October 2021 program focused on why DEI matters in public service, doing the work: a mindful approach to DEI, cultural humility, social equity and ethics, empathy in professional settings, leading with courage, and appreciative communication. Future offerings will include alternative topics and expanded presentation team to reflect the breadth and depth of the field.

“There is no more important work than public service. We are proud to offer this program to support those who model, inspire, and lead the way every day,” said Paul Danczyk, Director of Executive Education.

For more information about *Leading Through DEI*, October presenters, and how to register for the February 2022 program, visit: <https://priceschool.usc.edu/ltdei/>