



## Agenda Overview

The Graduate! Network's annual Directors' Institute is designed to be an intensive co-learning experience to help communities advance their work. Defined as a Learning Exchange and dubbed "LearnX", this two-day immersive meeting is an opportunity for leaders of Graduate! Network communities to come together and learn from one another's experiences, as well as to connect with other experts.

LearnX 2018 is about Momentum, Innovation and Growth. Topics will highlight proven completion strategies and tactics, expanding equity in access and impact, advancing our sustainability agenda through leadership, data and the knowledge we derive from it, and partnerships. As in past years, it is shaping up to be an exciting learning event full of actionable takeaways, with ample time for meeting colleagues from across the country.

**When:** Thursday, October 18th 7:30 AM - 5:30 PM & Friday, October 19th 8:00 AM - 12:30 PM

**Where:** Co-hosted with KC Degrees at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation's headquarters, 4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO. 64110.

**Who:** Graduate! Network Directors & guests from their Guiding Team or community partners

**What:** Take home actionable strategies to build and sustain your community:

- Learn about successful completion strategies and programs
- Strengthen your strategies for Community sustainability and growth
- Connect with Network peers
- Showcase community and state-level accomplishments
- Solidify relationships between leaders in your community's higher education and employer ecosystems
- Opportunities to join working groups and initiatives that link our Communities in action and collective learning.

Our hosts in Kansas City will kick off LearnX 2018 by pulling back the curtain on the alignment of interests around adult completion in Kansas City and a shared vision for adult postsecondary attainment.

Throughout LearnX, national leaders will talk about key forces, trends and changes in postsecondary adult attainment with a focus on outcome equity and power equity.

We will hear about employers' changing attitudes and involvement in employee educational attainment, and how higher education is responding in our communities and nationally with new models for accelerating degree completion.

We will explore the Kresge Foundation's model of a well-functioning higher education ecosystem and how it can serve Network communities.

We will showcase recent findings from The Graduate! Network's Data That Move Us and Bridging the Talent Gap projects, and connect these Network-wide data practices to communities' sustainability efforts.

Data That Move Us is the Network's community-collected data initiative for increasing each community's ability to understand program impacts and ongoing needs, as well as a view of the entire Network.

Bridging The Talent Gap is our community initiative to help employers and other stakeholders understand and act upon shared challenges to ensure a skilled and thriving workforce and improved economic conditions.

We will workshop these ideas throughout the two days, and as always, communities will have plenty of opportunities to engage with the speakers and issues and among ourselves.

The second day will provide sharing and workshopping opportunities for the Network's community leaders. We will report on new findings, and the Network communities that already use these approaches will share their experiences.

We will conclude LearnX 2018 with guided planning on sustaining and growing our Communities and the Network as a whole.