

April 3, 2015

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the creation of the Rutgers Leadership Academy (RLA) on the New Brunswick campus. The initiation of this program was one of the recommendations of the Rutgers-New Brunswick 2015-2020 [Strategic Plan](#), and is being developed under the auspices of the Center for Organizational Development and Leadership (ODL). Brent Ruben, ODL Executive Director and distinguished professor of Communication, will serve as Director of the RLA, and Richard DeLisi, former dean of the Graduate School of Education and university professor, will serve as Co-Director. Senior academic, professional and administrative leaders from a variety of disciplines and areas of expertise will also participate in the program as RLA faculty.

The Academy focuses on the development of cross-cutting leadership concepts, competencies, and tools to enhance professional capabilities for mid-career faculty and staff in Rutgers-New Brunswick and Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences with an interest in and potential for expanded leadership. The program is open to those with or without prior formal leadership experience. Those who participate in the program will be designated as RLA Fellows.

RLA Fellows will work with RLA faculty in a group-based, peer-learning and collaborative learning environment. Fellows will acquire an enhanced understanding of the challenges confronting Rutgers and other colleges and universities, and a broadened leadership knowledge and skill-set for effectively addressing these challenges.

Working with others in a leadership capacity to improve aspects of university operations is a key component of the RLA program experience. Thus, as part of the RLA program, Fellows will assume a leadership role in a unit or campus project that will have tangible benefits for their unit and/or the campus or university as a whole. These projects will be developed by sponsors and Fellows.

Prospective Fellows will be nominated by a sponsor. Nominations for participation in the Academy should be submitted by campus leaders who see a need for an expanded pool of future leaders within their unit or the campus or institution more broadly, and who want to recognize and encourage the development of particular colleagues to assume increasing leadership responsibilities.

Nominators must be willing to serve a facilitating and mentoring role throughout the program. Fellows and their sponsors will be asked for a two-year RLA program commitment that includes support of participants attending RLA meetings and completing program requirements.

Additional information regarding the Fellows nomination process can be found at <http://odl.rutgers.edu/leadership.html>. Nomination materials should be submitted to rulead@rutgers.edu by May 1, 2015.

Questions about the program should be directed to rulead@rutgers.edu

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard L. Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Richard L. Edwards, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
and
Chancellor, Rutgers – New Brunswick