

Introduction to LEAD Capstone

2023 NLC Institute || SW Ohio

The LEAD Capstone enables NLC Fellows to take their initial goals set during the initial NLC Institute weekend and use these to create a concrete plan, incorporating learnings from the Institute, to achieve these goals. Your LEAD Capstone should take the final form of a strategic plan for action, encompassing your long-term goals. Prior to graduating from the NLC Institute, you are required to present a capstone plan using a creative medium of your choosing to an online audience. The plan can be provided in the form of a strategic plan, policy brief, or a business plan for something more tangible, such as a nonprofit, business, product, event, etc.

Capstone Culmination in May

During the May Institute, you are required to present a capstone project virtually using an online medium of your choice that will provide a roadmap for your post-Institute participation in the overall NLC movement, and beyond.

Key Points all NLC Graduates Should Demonstrate in Capstone Presentations:

- Plans to achieve your long-term goals
- Your role in the progressive movement and the change you want to make as a progressive leader
- Your next concrete steps to achieving a specific goal
- How NLC has helped you define these goals
- Best part and worst part of your capstone -- what would you do differently?

Your LEAD Capstone should consist of three (3) parts:

1. **Proposal – Draft a one-pager describing the concept to be developed throughout the Institute.** This is meant to be a rough draft. Fellows may pivot throughout the Institute. Consider including some of the following components: background; needs assessment; issue/problem; roles; personal development and growth; community participation; innovation; strategy; goals/objectives; development plan during/after institute; budget; and next steps.
2. **White Paper (optional) – Consider drafting a white paper.** This is a persuasive document that describes problems and how to solve them. However, please consider any written report style that fits your concept. This is meant to be the fully developed version of your concept beyond the proposal. The white paper should be no more than 10 pages. Use discretion as to how much content explains your concept. Consider incorporating some of the elements from your proposal.
3. **Presentation – Use your collective creativity and imagination to share your idea.** This presentation is meant to describe your concept to a live audience. Consider using a virtual delivery style and medium of your choice. For example, rapid-fire delivery styles, such as [NLC Spark! Talk](#) and [TEDTalks](#), lend themselves well to presenting a complex idea under time pressure and keeping an audience on their toes. Creative slide decks and visual storytelling are also great methods. It's entirely up to you to communicate your idea as effectively as possible. Your total presentation should be no more than 15 minutes + 5 minutes of Q+A if you're presenting to a live audience (20 minutes total).

Capstone presentations are tentatively scheduled for the last day of Institute on Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21. Please stay tuned for instructions about how to register for a time slot and other logistical details.

More information about NLC's capstone program and examples from past NLC Alumni are available [here](#).