



FAMILY LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE

Families Leading Social Change

WHAT IS “FAMILY LEADERSHIP”?

Family leadership emerges when community members and parents gain the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in meaningful leadership roles that help shape the future of families, youth, school and communities.

WHY IS “FAMILY LEADERSHIP” NECESSARY?

- Makes positive social change possible
- National directives mandate that families serve as essential advisors in public policy, research, and systems development
- Confirms that the voice of the people is represented in policy making discussions and decision making within the local, state and federal government.
- Increase parent-child interaction through family involvement
- Communities are strengthened when the voice of the family is valued

WHAT IS THE *FAMILY LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE* AND WHAT DOES IT OFFER?

- A 20-week skill-based curriculum designed to bolster family involvement and leadership skills while promoting the life long health, safety and learning of children (Connecticut Parent Leadership Training Institute, www.cga.ct.gov/coc/plti.htm)
- A research based curriculum designed to *complement* other family leadership curricula
- Integrates leadership and democracy skills to enhance local community involvement and additional opportunities
- A research based curriculum (from the state of Connecticut) that applies to all families
- Focus on empowerment and civic skills to equip families in making desired changes
- State and National certification in Family Leadership
- Develops a coalition of families invested in systems change
- An evaluation of both short and long term outcomes
- Curriculum designed to address a wide range of diversity

HOW ARE CLASSES ORGANIZED?

- Local classes are formed and supported by local communities
- Participants are selected based on demonstrated commitment and desire for actionable change
- Participants receive full 20-weeks of instruction, child care and meals – **at no cost**
- Interactive lesson plans based on proven adult learning styles
- Skilled and certified facilitators are familiar with local concerns and reflect their communities diverse perspectives
- Features community based projects to address identified gaps as determined by the participant

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES OF THE FAMILY LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE?

82% of participants report improvement in their ability to be agents of change for their children.	45% reported the training created new opportunities that they did not know existed.
81% report they can have a role in changing their communities.	20% return to school for advanced education
79% report improved self-confidence	15% got new jobs
70% report being able to work with professionals in their communities	11% change careers
69% report they were able to get information to help them understand issues in their communities	9% report they began voting

* Data is provided by the Connecticut Parent Leadership Training Institute, www.cga.ct.gov/coc/plti.htm

WHAT DO COLORADO FLTI GRADUATES SAY ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE?

"FLTI supports and shares the value of family that we do. Our children were considered as part of the process. They were with us the whole 20 weeks. They heard the discussions my husband and I had about the class topics, made new friends, and they met other families who also get involved in their communities. I was able to continue my leadership education as well as set a positive example for my children." – *Veronica Brennan*

"FLTI gives me the tools to become a better parent leader by becoming more active in my child's life and community by advocating for what is just and fair for the better of all the families." – *Robert Paiz*

"FLTI means one person, armed with knowledge and passion, can become an agent for change and can make a difference." -- *Kendra Shattuck*

"FLTI has given me the tools to harness the community around me and that I have a voice to be reckoned with. FLTI has brought back my youth and revitalized the KID within me AND given me the opportunity to find inner peace through working with kids." –*Albert Ovando*

"FLTI has given me the tools and confidence to achieve goals that will better my community and neighborhood. FLTI is the reason I'm a leader in my community and in my family." – *Theresa Mock*



Increasing family involvement is a priority for many programs and community organizations. Developing leadership skills in families is a strategy toward this end.

"Authentic parent/professional partnerships facilitate opportunities for families to engage in civic leadership. I look forward to working together as we develop a coordinated system by which families in Colorado are supported in their progression of leadership, ultimately resulting in systems change! It's time!" - *Eileen Forlenza*

"There is a critical gap between parental desire to improve conditions for children and capacity. The lack of skills are not from disinterest but from a missing tool kit, a democracy tool kit that might offer the specific skills of how to create change in policy and leadership within a civic context. When the tools of democracy are understood, parents will reenter civic life." ~ *Elaine Zimmerman – Connecticut Parent Leadership Training Institute*

For more information please visit www.coloradofamilyleadership.com or contact Eileen Forlenza (303) 692-2794