Leadership Essentials for Frontline Leaders Certificate Program

In today’s competitive marketplace, companies face real challenges of engaging and retaining a talented workforce and achieving operational excellence. Frontline leaders are at the crossroads of both and have the greatest capacity to impact your company’s success in these critical areas. To be effective in achieving success in this environment, they need essential skills and competencies to support the development and engagement of their team. NC State Industry Expansion Solutions (IES) has partnered with Development Dimensions International (DDI) to offer an impactful leadership program that supports the development of key leadership skills and competencies important to the success of frontline leaders.

“Frontline leaders supervise 80% of the workforce, yet 60% of frontline leaders have never received leadership training.”
A recent DDI study across 40+ years of research illustrates the positive impact DDI's Interaction Management® (IM) curriculum has on leaders, employees, and the business. Research shows:

- 81% of direct reports whose leader attended IM reported increased engagement.
- 85 out of 10 clients report that DDI solutions lead to measurable change and sustainable outcomes year after year.
- 77% of organizations report decreased turnover.

Who Should Participate in the Program?

Recently appointed supervisors or group leaders and employees, promoted from the ranks, to frontline leadership roles currently managing employees.

Participation Benefits

Participants will gain the knowledge to:

- Enhance their leadership communications
- Build the team’s capabilities and capacity through developmental delegations
- Grow leadership capabilities using 360° feedback from employees, peers and supervisor
- Effectively coach and develop employees to enhance productivity, efficiency and morale
- Encourage people to take ownership of, and be accountable for, their work performance
- Support ambitious change efforts Imculture

Key Elements of the Program

Access to Award Winning Curriculum

IES has partnered with Development Dimensions International (DDI) to offer an impactful leadership program that supports the development of key leadership skills and competencies important to the success of frontline leaders in today’s industry sectors that include: effective communication, establishing goals and measures, delegation, coaching, giving performance feedback, addressing poor performance and driving organizational change.

Electives to Support Your Unique Learning Needs

In addition, participants will have the opportunity to add up to two additional courses from DDIs online curriculum and development content to supplement and customize their learning experience. These electives can be used to gain additional knowledge on topics outside the reach of the program or as make-up sessions if participants missed on-site sessions.

The Individual Development Plan and Coaching

The Individual Development Plan (IDP) is designed to provide frontline business leaders the opportunity to enhance their professional and personal leadership skills. Individual development is an essential component of leadership excellence because it increases competency in developing others and allows time for self-reflection using the outcomes of self and group assessment. Moreover, to become a leader, one must have a personal vision and be able to balance personal and professional commitments.

The IDP helps participants articulate leadership excellence through self-improvement and the development of a personal vision. Each participant will receive up to three (3) individual coaching sessions from a leadership coach to support their targeted development needs based on identified leadership strengths and gaps identified from personal assessments (DISC) and feedback received from key stakeholders through the Leadership Mirror 360° Assessment.

Developmental Feedback

Leadership Mirror 360° Assessment

Leadership Mirror® is DDI’s web-based multi-rater feedback assessment designed to provide a clear picture of individual strengths and development needs to support the development of key leadership skills and competencies. Each participant will complete the assessment, along with their supervisor and direct reports, to provide key insights into their existing strengths and opportunities for development. Participants will use the feedback to create an individual development plan to focus their efforts towards achieving the best results in toward their leadership growth.

Please note that the Leadership Mirror 360° Assessment is designed to be used only for developmental feedback through this program and not for evaluating employee performance or promotions. All information obtained through this process is treated with the utmost confidentiality, and only used for coaching and development of each participant.
Program Modules

Your Leadership Journey
This module arms a new or prospective leader with the knowledge and skills needed to confront the early challenges in their leadership career. It encourages them to think about the transitions new leaders face and how to handle those challenges. They are introduced to three leadership differentiators that are important to building a positive reputation as well as contributing to the organization’s success.

Enhancing Your Leadership Style With Everything DiSC® Workplace Assessment
Everything DiSC Workplace® provides valuable insights that unlock engagement and inspire effective collaboration to build more productive relationships at work. It focuses on how individual preferences impact the leader’s and team performance. Through facilitated discussion and guided activities, participants develop an understanding of their unique priorities, preferences and values they bring to their leadership role, and learn to appreciate the value others’ styles bring to the workplace. With personalized insights and actionable strategies, participants learn how to adapt to the style of others, ultimately improving engagement, collaboration and overall quality of the workplace.

Communicating for Leadership Success
This module helps leaders communicate effectively so they can spark action in others. This module teaches leaders the interaction essentials needed to handle the variety of challenges and opportunities they encounter every day in the workplace and beyond.

Delegating with Purpose
In this module, leaders keep the skills needed to address these challenges, gain the commitment of team members, develop individual skills and abilities, enhance the overall capability and capacity of their teams and, ultimately, the organization. Leaders identify the tasks needed to delegate, select the most appropriate individuals, assess capabilities and commitment, and plan the delegation discussion. That discussion includes the decision-making level authority, support amount and methods for monitoring progress and measuring results.

Setting Goals and Reviewing Results
This module shows the positive effect of shifting the traditional role of planner and evaluator from the leader to a shared responsibility between leaders and employees. This shift builds employee ownership and allows the leader to focus on coaching and developing throughout the performance cycle. Leaders experience how to use SMART goals to help them and their employees track progress and fairly evaluate outcomes. A well-written performance plan is also a powerful tool to use when determining where to focus development and coaching discussions with their employees.

Coaching for Peak Performance
This module teaches the importance of three coaching techniques and how to effectively handle proactive and reactive coaching discussions, to support more effective and efficient interactions.

Addressing Poor Performance
A single employee with chronic performance problems can dominate a leader’s time and drag down the productivity and morale of an entire work group. This module builds leaders’ skills in handling chronic performance problems. They learn how to document and present a solid case for needed improvement. Leaders identify the steps to take following a performance problem discussion to provide ongoing feedback and support, and determine if it is necessary to impose formal consequences.

Driving Change
Successful change in organizations requires leaders that facilitate workplace change initiatives by turning resistance into commitment and inspiring team members to take ownership of change. This module provides the skills and resources leaders need to accelerate the process of implementing change with their team members and to create an agile work environment where people are more open to change.

Developing Your Action Plan & Program Evaluation
This module helps participants take key learnings and identify next steps for moving to action within their new role. Lastly, participants provide feedback on key program elements to support future changes and enhancements.
Industry Expansion Solutions (IES) is the engineering-based, solutions-driven, client-focused extension unit of NC State’s College of Engineering. Our broad portfolio and deep industry expertise help organizations grow, innovate and prosper. Our extensive partnerships with business, industry, education and government generate a unique culture of collaboration that provides access to cutting-edge expertise, research, and technology.