LeadDIVERSITY is a fantastic program. It has helped me to gain insight and knowledge on difficult topics like Race, Gender, and Privilege. The program fosters healthy ways to engage, and teaches language to use when discussing diversity and inclusion issues. The program provides a safe venue for the participants to engage in strong, meaningful dialogue. I have learned and grown from interactions with my classmates. I am more aware of the issues people face and am a better ally as a result of my participation in LeadDIVERSITY. I recommend the program highly."

— Ken Liang, Eaton, Class of 2019
Developing Diversity Leaders for Our Community

LeadDIVERSITY is a program in which a select group of professionals engage with regional leaders and the greater community to raise the participants’ awareness of diversity, inclusion and equity issues, build their leadership skills, and enhance their network. Each session is designed to help participants explore the concept of diversity leadership and to analyze its personal, workplace, and community impact.

CLASS COMPOSITION
Participants of LeadDIVERSITY are from various corporate, non-profit, governmental, and community organizations. The program is for anyone who has an interest in the impact of diversity at work, in their personal lives and/or communities, including Managers, Human Resources Professionals, Diversity Council, and other groups.

PROCESS
The LeadDIVERSITY program approaches diversity and leadership issues from a no-fault, interactive foundation with the goal of affecting positive change. Emphasis is placed on personal and professional growth through group participation as well as knowledge and practical skill enrichment. The class visits locations and organizations around Northeast Ohio to engage with regional leaders in the corporate, non-profit, and civic arenas who hold diversity as a high value.

APPLICATION AND SELECTIVITY
Each year’s class of up to 40 individuals is selected through a competitive application process. The selection committee seeks applicants with proven leadership skills who have exhibited a strong community commitment. For questions, please contact Jessica A. Daigler at jdaipler@diversitycenterneo.org or 216.752.3000. Applications must be submitted by Thursday, August 1, 2019. You will be notified of your acceptance by Friday, August 30, 2019.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS
The LeadDIVERSITY program consists of 9 full-day sessions, 1 evening event, 1 Saturday morning event, and graduation. The first session is mandatory. Program days will consist of site visits, seminars, simulations, personal reflection, discussions with Northeast Ohio’s prominent leaders and policy makers, and in-depth facilitated group activities and discussion. Program days will culminate in a LeadDIVERSITY experience.

Optional social events will also take place after each session. Recognizing that illness and changes in business schedules can occur, participants may miss no more than 1 session. Attendance at LeadDIVERSITY sessions entails participation for the entire day. Missing more than one session will jeopardize participant’s eligibility for graduation.

LeadDIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
LeadDIVERSITY is a program of The Diversity Center and reflects The Diversity Center’s emphasis on building communities and improving intergroup relations. Upon completion of the program, graduates are encouraged to become active members of the LeadDIVERSITY Alumni Association, which provides ongoing diversity leadership development through opportunities and social gatherings benefitting class members and the Northeast Ohio community. Tuition for the LeadDIVERSITY Class of 2020 includes the first year’s dues in the Alumni Association.

“LeadDIVERSITY transfers an individual from a spectator to a participant in the important topics of diversity and inclusion. The program effectively provides awareness that subsequently instills understanding and ignites passion.”
— Frank Ritzert, NASA Glenn Research Center, Class of 2010

PROGRAM DATES 2019-2020
Attendance is expected at all sessions. An optional social event will take place after each session.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION—Mandatory Session—September 18, 2019; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Begin working with your classmates to explore group dynamics, leadership roles, and communication, all while getting to know one another.

Great Lakes Science Center

IDENTITY—October 15, 2019; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Examine your identities and their interactions with privilege, then using the HBDI assessment, determine your leadership style and learn to appreciate diverse thinking preferences and how they contribute to outcomes.

Parker Hannifin

SURVIVING HATE—November 4, 2019; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Enjoy guided tours of the Museum, hear from speakers discussing hate, discrimination, and social movements, and explore discrimination in our community today.

Malz Museum of Jewish Heritage

HUMANITARIAN AWARD DINNER—November 13, 2019; 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Join us as we honor our Humanitarians as well as the PwC Outstanding LeadDIVERSITY Alumni of the Year.

Cleveland Renaissance Hotel

LEAVING A LEGACY—December 10, 2019; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Take the opportunity to think more deeply about leaving a class legacy and using what you have learned with your HBDI profile, begin discussions about your Legacy Project.

MetroHealth

INSTITUTIONAL INEQUITIES—January 15, 2020; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Investigate systemic inequities in our society, with a specific focus on race, and explore ways to begin addressing those issues.

Rocky River School District

CREATING INCLUSION—February 12, 2020; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Get-up-to-date information about LBGTQ terms and issues, then hear from Alumni about best practices surrounding inclusion.

Oatley

ALLYSHIP—March 19, 2020; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Explore allyship in action for personal and institutional change.

Elyria City Schools

CLEVELAND: CROSSING THE BRIDGE—April 16, 2020; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Meet with the Mayor and Council Members of the City of Cleveland while visiting City Hall and tour both an east side and west side ward of the city.

Cleveland City Hall

WALK, ROCK & RUN!—May 2, 2020; 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Walk, run, or volunteer at this fun community event supporting The Diversity Center’s School & Youth programming!

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

ETHICAL LEADERSHIP—May 23, 2020; 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
In guided activities and dialogue with The Institute for Creative Leadership, examine a case study and explore more about what being an ethical leader means.

Dominion Foundation

GRADUATION—June 20, 2020; 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Celebrate with your classmates, guests, Diversity Center staff and Board Members.

Location TBA

TUITION & PAYMENT
• Tuition for each participant in the LeadDIVERSITY Class of 2020 is $2,750.
• Tuition includes support for your Legacy Project and your first year’s dues in the LeadDIVERSITY Alumni Association.
• Applicants may be sponsored by their employers, or with agreement from their employer, may sponsor themselves.
• A limited number of partial scholarships are available based on financial need.
• If you are accepted into the LeadDIVERSITY Class of 2020, you and/or your employer will be invoiced accordingly.
• Payment is due immediately upon receipt.

For more information or to request an additional application, contact Jessica A. Daigler at The Diversity Center jdaipler@diversitycenterneo.org or 216.752.3000.

Applications available online www.diversitycenterneo.org/leaddiversity.html

The Diversity Center appreciates the generous underwriting of: