

LLP/ELP: Continuing to be a network!

We know many of you wanted to be at the LLP/ELP Celebration. In August, over 35 of us met in Portland, OR, to celebrate the program and discuss ways to maintain our interactions and expand our impact following the planned sunset of the program. As part of our time together, we workshopped several ideas of possible collaborative efforts, first winnowing many individual ideas, then meeting in 3 groups during 3 sessions each to identify actions that could be undertaken in the next year. The dual goals were to have Fellows keep working together while tangibly advancing on initiatives on a *time horizon of one year*. We also are interested in collaborating with Future Earth, to the extent that they have capacity to support ongoing efforts.

Call to action: [Sign up for one of the three work groups](#): – **Institutions, Infrastructure, and Influence!** It is just for one year. After that, we will re-evaluate!

Please also note that the contacts listed below agreed to organize the first meeting of the group but need the active participation of other fellows for these initiatives to move forward.

Institutions

There is appetite to improve universities, colleges, and other institutions that employ Fellows who wish to have an impact in the world. Much ink has been spilled in recent years critiquing the ivory tower, especially public universities that the public (including parents, donors, funders, and legislatures) do not see as contributing sufficiently to sustainability solutions. As the places where many Fellows are employed, there was interest in continuing work to shift the incentive structures of these institutions to improve impact on individual careers, on scholars collectively, and ultimately on the broader world. This group started its discussion generically and aspirational, but it eventually coalesced around accelerating and amplifying tangible recommendations in the [Beyond the Academy Guidebook](#). (You may recall that at our 2018 LLP Leadership Teach-in Bonnie Keeler (ELP 2022) gathered a group that authored the book!)

Purpose: The group wants to stimulate and showcase progress at a set of institutions with which they have affiliations, representing the spectrum including research intensive, regional comprehensive, teaching oriented, public, and private schools.

Contact: Seline Heppell, selina.heppell@oregonstate.edu

Infrastructure (for Issues)

This topic tackles the desire of Fellows to have more collective energy and networking when responding to urgent calls from media or legislators. This group would like stronger and better online tags for all fellows, such that someone working on wind energy or wildfire or drought or whatever issue could quickly identify fellows by related themes, regions, etc. and then put out calls for shared effort—such as fact sheets to use when responding to media, or drafting white papers, or planning advice to give to legislators. This group was also keen for this network to broaden beyond just Leopold/ELP Fellows.

Purpose: This group also sees high potential value in having fellows more regularly contribute feedback, e.g., calls in the US Federal Register, or calls for authors of the US National Nature Assessment. You may recall on the listserv the posts from Karen Holl and Jane Lubchenco urging us to respond to such calls.

Contact: Karen Holl (kholl@ucsc.edu), Karen Hodges (karen.hodges@ubc.ca), Dave Hooper (hooper@wwu.edu), Karen Lips (klips@umd.edu), Whendee Silver (wsilver@berkeley.edu)

Influence

This group is committed to carrying forward the scholarship and practice of leadership as a key legacy of the Leopold/ELP program. We recognize that our own leadership journey is never complete and that a dynamic world requires continuous innovation in the teaching, practice, and study of leadership. We also feel committed to broadening access to leadership training in our communities, institutions, and professional networks. This model builds from later cohorts, who developed small groups, some of which are still active a decade later.

Activities: Some in the group would like to work together to co-author a scholarly article on the theme of environmental leadership drawing on our experiences as fellows. Others are interested in exploring best practices in leadership as they relate to some of the most challenging contemporary contexts. These include: 1. fostering dialogue across difference, 2. combating polarization and mistrust in institutions and information, 3. navigating tensions between scholarship and advocacy, and 4. embracing collective and pluralistic leadership models, especially from Global South communities. The exact form of these initiatives is still taking shape and could include periodic discussion groups, a slack channel to share ideas and resources, or a proposal to fund one or more in-person workshops.

Bonnie Keeler and Alan Townsend have agreed to schedule and facilitate an initial meeting of interested participants. No further commitment is required. At this point we're interested in identifying fellows who feel an affinity for the topic of leadership and would like to explore ways to broaden and deepen our exploration of leadership in a supportive community

Contact: Bonnie Keeler (keel0041@umn.edu)

Other ideas

A) Via "summer camps", to be held at field stations of universities that have them, with fellows invited to come and bring a protégé or colleague. The working group on this will identify duration (several days to a week), some training topics, etc. These will likely be self-funded, i.e. each attendee would need to pay to attend. Ideally, there will be one hosted by Alan Townsend in Montana in 2025.

Contact: Alan Townsend (townsena@gmail.com)

B) We want to target the 2025 Sustainability Research and Innovation conference (held in the USA and hosted by the global Future Earth) with several workshops or training events led by Leopold/ELP Fellows.

Contact: John Lin John.Lin@utah.edu, Erica Key erica.key@futureearth.org

C) We're exploring forming a Leopold/ELP-Fellow based section at ESA, which would also welcome others interested in similar ways of practicing science.

D) It would be great to see more LLP fellows sit on the Future Earth Board.

Summary produced by Karen Hodges, Dave Secord, and Margaret Krebs. . .in hopes of keeping the network vibrant and useful for years to come.