The Invitation
The Office of the Provost encourages members of the first three cohorts of the Provost’s Leadership Academy to apply for the 2019-2020 “PLA II.” Completed applications are due to Provost Jim Wohlpart in Seerley 20 (or by email to jim.wohlpart@uni.edu) by 5:00 p.m. Monday, September 16.

Program Components Will Include:
- Seasonal gatherings on the following dates will include a potluck (Thursday evening) and brown bag lunch (Friday):
  - Workshop 1: October 24 – 25, 2019 (Thursday evening 5 – 7:00 p.m. plus Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 p.m.)
  - Workshop 2: January 9 – 10, 2020 (Thursday evening 5 – 7:00 p.m. plus Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 p.m.; please hold January 16 – 17 in case of inclement weather)
  - Workshop 3: April 16 – 17, 2020 (Thursday evening 5 – 7:00 p.m. plus Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 p.m.)
  - Workshop 4: June 18 – 19, 2020 (Thursday evening 5 – 7:00 p.m. plus Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 p.m.)
- Individual or small-group consultation & discernment coaching with Chris, by appointment throughout the day on the Thursdays of the seasonal gatherings and/or by phone or Zoom at any time throughout the year.
- Ongoing collaboration in small groups (peer action-learning circles) on projects that in the spirit of Parker Palmer’s “movement model” will be co-designed by participants to “go public” with the work of the Academy. In these small groups, you’ll identify and address an adaptive challenge at UNI or in the broader community or region.
- At a later time, we will explore the possibility of adding a closing retreat, taking into account both budget and the group’s interest and availability.

The year will allow for a deeper dive into select components of the PLA, including such possibilities as:
- Adaptive Leadership
- Resilience
- Democracy, justice, & the common good
- Vocation & Discernment
- Challenges facing higher ed
- Contemplative practice & pedagogy
- UNI as a mentoring community
- as well as content ideas generated by the group.

Chris will again provide readings and resources to help guide the seasonal large-group sessions and fuel the peer action-learning circles. Possibilities include:
- adrienne maree brown, Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds
- Maurianne Adams and Lee Anne Bell, Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice (3rd edition)
- Brené Brown, Dare to Lead
- Meg Wheatley, Who Do We Choose to Be? Facing Reality, Claiming Leadership, Restoring Sanity
- Tonya Huber-Warring, Growing a Soul for Social Change: Building the Knowledge Base for Social Justice
- Michael Jones, The Soul of Place: Re-imagining Leadership through Nature, Art, and Community
- Hans Rosling, Factfulness
- Joanna Macy & Chris Johnstone, Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We’re in without Going Crazy
- Krista Tippett, Becoming Wise: An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living
- Parker Palmer & Arthur Zajonc, The Heart of Higher Education
- Toni Morrison, Beloved

and readings & resources suggested by members of the group.
Collaborative Work on an Adaptive Challenge

One key intention for “PLA II” will be for alumni of PLA cohorts 1-3 to come together around projects of their devising. As before, Peer Action-Learning Circles will meet at least once each month. These small groups (triads or otherwise, ideally but not necessarily consisting of representatives from each of the three PLA cohorts) provide continuity between the seasonal large-group sessions, opportunity for additional engagement with questions and ideas, deep listening and peer coaching, and a “living laboratory” for working on self-identified projects related to an adaptive challenge at UNI or in the broader Cedar Valley community.

We encourage you, therefore, to unleash your imagination: What project or experiment can you see yourself working on for the year in this safe, courageous community of learning and practice? What idea or possibility might you like to develop in collaboration with colleagues who share the language, ideas, vision, and energy of the Academy? What adaptive challenge calls you to action? How do you want to bring the Academy alive in your community? This could be, e.g., revising an existing course or program or creating a new course or program related to a particular adaptive challenge; fostering new forms of community/university collaboration; tackling a writing project or some other form of creative expression. Your ideas can and likely will evolve throughout the year; the action-learning circles provide both rich soil and supportive container for them – and you – to grow.

A Reminder of the Ongoing Academy Goals

1. To strengthen education for the public good at UNI by supporting emerging leaders across multiple disciplines, departments, and divisions of the University.
2. To foster innovative service, teaching, advising, mentoring, and scholarship around issues of vocation, leadership, and the public/civic purposes of higher education.
3. To encourage interdisciplinary approaches to addressing societal needs and cultivating lives of commitment and contribution in a complex world.
4. To support members of the UNI staff, faculty, and administration in their own vocational development and professional growth, and in connecting their vocational commitments to their work.
5. To provide opportunity to study and reflect intensively over an extended period of time with a small cohort of colleagues, and to encourage wider communities of discussion, innovation, and practice across the University.

Application Information

Completed applications are due to Provost Jim Wohlpart in Seerley 20 (or jim.wohlpart@uni.edu) by 5:00 p.m. Monday, September 16, 2019. In this case, we’re asking for a statement of your intentions and commitment for the year, and for ideas that will help to shape our curriculum. The application questions below are meant to be open-ended and evocative. To apply, please complete the attached application, with signatures, and submit it with a 1-2 page Word-document with your responses to these questions:

1. What hopes and aspirations, concerns or hesitations do you hold around your participation in PLA II? What calls to your imagination about the prospect of “deepening and extending” the PLA – for yourself, for UNI, and/or for the broader community?
2. What adaptive challenge(s) would you like to address throughout the year? What “project” would you like to develop and implement with colleagues from PLA II (and if you already have specific PLA colleagues in mind with whom you’d like to collaborate, please tell us who they are)?
3. What ideas/suggestions do you have re: topics you’d like us to explore during the seasonal sessions and/or readings and resources we should consider using at some point throughout the year? (These can either be “endorsements” of the possibilities listed on page 1, or new ideas.) Also: are you willing to (co-)facilitate or -present?
4. Is there anything else you’d like us (Jim & Chris) to know?