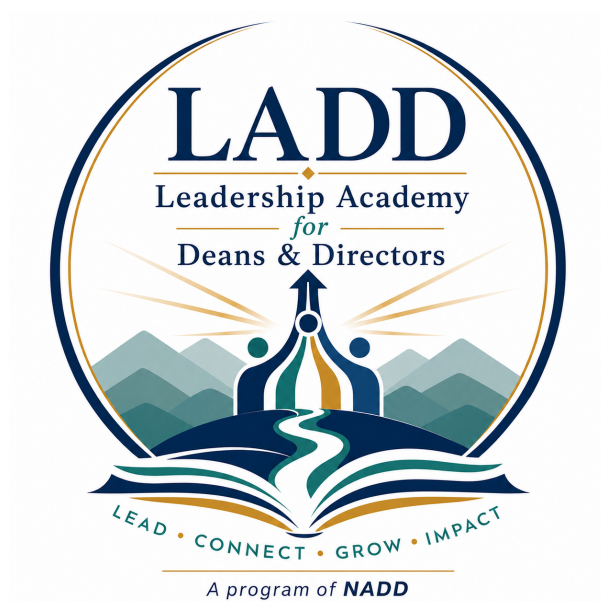




THE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY FOR DEANS AND DIRECTORS

Cohort 17
2026–2027

How leaders begin matters. Intentional leadership begins with taking the time to understand who you are, what you value, and how you want to lead.

Stepping into leadership as a dean, director, or chair is both an opportunity and a significant responsibility. New leaders are often expected to establish a vision, build trust, manage complex organizational dynamics, support faculty, staff, and students, and respond to the changing demands of higher education, all while continuing to develop their own leadership identity.

The Leadership Academy for Deans and Directors provide a structured and supportive environment in which new and emerging academic leaders can pause, reflect, learn, and become more intentional about how they approach this work. Participants also build a trusted network of support with others navigating similar responsibilities, challenges, and transitions. Through these relationships, leaders are reminded that they are not alone and do not have to navigate the demands of academic leadership by themselves.

The Leadership Academy for Deans and Directors is a signature program of NADD. LADD assists social work deans and directors in developing the knowledge, skills, relationships, and confidence necessary to lead effectively. Applications are now being accepted for LADD Cohort 17.

ABOUT NADD

Founded in 1986, the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work is a volunteer membership organization dedicated to promoting leadership and excellence in social work

education. Its membership includes deans, directors, and chairs of graduate social work programs throughout the United States and Canada. NADD supports its members' professional development and effectiveness as academic administrators.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

LADD Cohort 17 is designed primarily for:

- New deans and directors of social work schools, departments, and programs;
- Deans and directors who have recently transitioned into their roles;
- Interim deans and directors who are preparing for or considering longer-term leadership;
- Academic leaders who want to become more intentional and strategic in how they approach their leadership responsibilities.

Leading an academic unit can be isolating. LADD provides participants with a trusted community of peers who understand the opportunities, pressures, and complexities of academic leadership.

LEADERSHIP GOALS

Through participation in the program, deans and directors will have opportunities to:

- Explore different models of leadership and leadership styles;
- Clarify their leadership values, voice, and purpose;
- Assess their individual leadership strengths and areas for continued growth;
- Strengthen their leadership and management capabilities;
- Develop strategies for navigating complex institutional and interpersonal challenges;
- Create a practical and usable strategic leadership plan;
- Build a supportive network of peer leaders who can serve as resources during and beyond the program year.

ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM

Leadership Development

Participants will examine what it means to lead with intention, identify and strengthen their leadership voices, and consider how different leadership approaches can be matched to different situations and organizational challenges. Participants will also articulate and advance a leadership agenda grounded in their values, institutional context, and goals.

Skill-Building

Sessions will strengthen participants' skills in areas such as:

- Vision-setting and strategic leadership;
- Communication and relationship-building;
- Faculty and staff relations;

- Managing conflict and difficult conversations;
- Decision-making and organizational change;
- Time, priority, and workload management;
- Sustaining personal and professional well-being while leading.

Mentorship and Coaching

Participants will receive mentorship, consultation, and coaching from the LADD leadership team:

- David Jenkins
- Joan Blakey
- Marianne Yoshioka
- Nancy Meyer-Adams

Peer Learning and Support

Participants will learn alongside other deans and directors facing similar leadership opportunities and challenges. The cohort serves as an ongoing network for consultation, encouragement, shared problem-solving, and professional support throughout the program year and beyond.

LADD COHORT 17 TRAINING SCHEDULE

Participation in all four sessions is expected.

Session 1: Atlanta, Georgia

Monday, October 19, 2026 1:00–5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Held in conjunction with the Council on Social Work Education Annual Conference.

Hotel: Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Hotel reservations should be made through the CSWE conference website.

Session 2: San Francisco, California

Monday, January 18, 2027 1:00–5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 19, 2027 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Held in conjunction with the Society for Social Work and Research Annual Conference.

Hotel: Hilton San Francisco Union Square

A hotel booking link will be provided in Fall 2026.

Session 3: San Diego, California

Saturday, April 3, 2027 1:00–5:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 4, 2027 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Held in conjunction with the NADD 2027 Spring Conference.

Hotel: Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa

Reservation link: [Book here](#)

Group code page: catamaranresort.com (code NADD27)

Session 4: Columbus, Ohio

Thursday, June 10, 2027 1:00–5:00 p.m.

Friday, June 11, 2027 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Location: The Ohio State University

Hotel and reservation information will be provided by Ohio State University staff.

Individual Consultation

Individual consultation with members of the LADD leadership team will be available upon request.

COST

The program fee is \$1,900 per participant.

Participants are responsible for travel-related expenses, including airfare, ground transportation, lodging, and some meals.

A limited number of travel scholarships may be available. Scholarship information and eligibility requirements will be provided with the application materials.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants should submit the following materials:

Personal Statement

A personal statement of approximately 750 words addressing:

- Why you accepted or are pursuing your current leadership role;
- The leadership opportunities and challenges you are currently navigating;
- What you hope to accomplish through LADD during the next 12 months;
- How participation in LADD will strengthen your effectiveness as a dean or director.

Letter of Support

A letter from the applicant's supervisor or institutional leader confirming support for:

- Participation in all four LADD sessions;
- The time required to engage fully in the program;
- The program fee and associated travel expenses.

Curriculum Vitae

Applications should be submitted by email to:

Vitali Chamov

Manager, NADD and LADD Leadership Initiatives

National Association of Deans and Directors

vchamov@cswe.org

Application deadline: Friday, August 14, 2026

Applicants will be notified by: Friday August 21, 2026

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information, please contact one of the LADD co-leaders:

David Jenkins

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Joan Blakey

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Gamble-Skogmo Land Grant Chair in Child Welfare and Youth Policy Endowed Chair
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**LEAD WITH INTENTION. CONNECT WITH PURPOSE. GROW WITH
COURAGE. MAKE AN IMPACT THAT ENDURES.**

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