



**Educating through Leadership and Ethics**

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*Real leadership is being the person others  
will gladly and confidently follow*

**Annual Conference**

The CEPA Consortium is hosting its annual leadership conference October 26-27, 2017. The theme is *Educating through leadership and ethics*. The conference site is the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas.

**Conference outcomes**



One mark of a great conference is that it makes you see things in a new way, and CEPA certainly succeeds in that goal, emphasized Samantha Shields, a doctoral student from Texas A&M University at College Station. Samantha expressed her opinion about CEPA

2016 by saying, "...I just wanted to take a moment and thank you for the opportunities provided for me at the CEPA conference this past weekend. Presenting, both in my session and poster, as well as acting as respondent, are invaluable opportunities for me to network

and grow as a future potential member of academia."

CEPA conferences include fresh insights to help us understand the leadership needed in today's world. Weaving new information into its program, and pulling the best from many individuals, CEPA includes speakers, panel discussions, informative and work sessions, and poster presentations on how to be proactive and entrepreneurial thinkers in this fast-paced world. The more challenging question of how to get the top, high-paying posts in an environment where competition is tough is always of interest to the delegates.

In 2001 at a CEPA conference held in Long Beach, California, a speaker complained to the California Secretary of Education, who was also in attendance, that his daughter could not get a job in her chosen field of study. She had just graduated from a well-known university and was surprised that the job offers weren't coming in as expected. What this individual and his daughter failed to understand is that it's not enough to simply graduate. Students who fail to network, collaborate, and become active participants in the learning process will be left behind. Sixteen years later, other parents whose son felt the pain of losing his post as a

result of downsizing and outsourcing, were heard to complain that it was the fault of the government rather than understanding the competitiveness of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. When individuals fail to take the lead in their own professional development, this sweeping negative impact will continue to be felt.

### *Leadership and ethics*



CEPA 2017 offers opportunities for networking, collaborative initiatives and for individual empowerment. As we begin to define the leadership direction that we take, we must ask important questions such as:

What are the experiences that are needed to nurture leadership? How do we develop responsible leadership as well as empower and mentor our future leaders? How can leadership in higher education continue to employ innovation to meet the challenges of the 21st century student, while maintaining a focus on values and ethical practices?"

### *Mentoring and investing in people*



One of the most important principles embraced at CEPA conferences

is mentoring and investing the time needed in developing new leadership. Students will have the opportunity to collaborate with senior professionals from universities, business and industry, as well as civic and political leaders. The students will become better informed about other visions of leadership and will have the opportunity to practice leadership.

The conference is designed to mentor future leaders in conjunction with their formal academic programs and encourage them to do more than simply taking classes. A mentor is someone who empowers and enables others to reach the highest levels of personal and professional development. Simply defined, empowering is giving influence to others for the purpose of personal and organizational growth. It's sharing influence, position, power, and opportunities with future leaders so that they can function at their best.

Personal interactions, coaching and serving as models are crucial to the mentoring process. This cannot be done haphazardly and from a distance. It takes commitment to inspire others to become their own leaders and to develop their vision for bringing about positive change.

### *Championing success*

Join us for an empowering weekend. The conference recognizes dreamers and visionaries, their pursuit of goals, and a desire to grow and excel.



Registration includes breakfast, lunch and receptions on Thursday and Friday and access to all speakers and breakout sessions. This event provides an opportunity for networking and high-powered professional development.

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