



Leadership: Growing the next generation of global partners

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“Everyone wants to feel that he counts for something and is important to someone. Invariably, people will give their love, respect, and attention to the person who fills that need.”

John C. Maxwell, Leadership 101

Leadership

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

Annual Conference

The CEPA Consortium is hosting its annual leadership conference October 27-28, 2016. The theme is *Leadership: Growing the next generation of global partners*. The conference site is the El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Michael J. Laney, Dean, OLLU



Dr. Michael J. Laney, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at OLLU, is the Conference Director for CEPA 2016.

This educator and scholar is at the helm of CEPA 2016 because of his

leadership style and beliefs that are aligned with the CEPA concept — developing an organizational cultural change where leadership is viewed as power with people, not over people. He promotes the idea that

emerging leaders measure themselves by the vision of the future.

“As a Christian, I am called to be an ethical servant leader,” stated Laney. His personal relationship with Christ shapes and gives birth to his worldview. As an academic in Christian higher education, he perceives his calling to entail the training of the next generation of students and faculty members to transmit and model the central values of God with integrity and clarity so as to impact the marketplace of ideas effectively and transform the culture. “I only need to reach the right person, be it faculty member, staff, or student,” he says. “Those whom I seek to shape may well become the next global, national, state, or local leaders. With intentionality I seek out persons of influence and those in the corridors of power whom I can mentor to become ethical servant leaders and persons of integrity, who will transform the nations, communities, culture, and businesses.”

Accordingly, as a leader and a Professor of Telecommunications at faith-based institutions, Dr. Laney recognizes that the mass media clearly impacts our world, our worldview, and our culture. He believes, that as we prepare to educate the 21st century student we must recognize that this particular student population represents a paradigm shift in higher education.



McNair Scholars Program

They are global citizens born into an information economy, ethnically diverse, technically savvy, and raised in the generation of mass media and the Web. This demographic has always had access to instant unfiltered information, but may lack sufficient tools to process it. Mass media does not merely record and reflect events in our world; they imprint their unique worldview on the culture and compete for the attention of the audience. By the same token, our faith must also compete in a pluralistic space, and win the attention of the same audience.



As an ethical servant leader, Dr. Laney's mission in higher education administration is to equip students and faculty to effectively engage the culture of the 21st century. He seeks to nurture inside and outside the classroom the promulgation of a reflective faith-based worldview that permeates all aspects of our world in thought, word, and deed. He is committed to personally model, challenge, and encourage his peers, colleagues, staff, and students to actively invoke critical thinking and where possible, transform our media and our community; to become cultural change agents of influence in their spheres of life: service, social, cultural, economic, political, and religious interaction.

Additionally, he seeks to be intentional and accountable for developing the tools of ethical decision making, critical thinking and personal reflection in his faculty colleagues and students to allow them to present and defend their faith and beliefs in the marketplace of ideas within the context of their academic disciplines, whether it places them in the news rooms or the corporate boardrooms of America. Tools that he has successfully employed with faculty include classroom observation of teaching, effective coaching, selected readings, and during leadership retreats, sharing of stories of best practices.



Finally, as an academic leader, he is responsible for preparing and equipping students to be problem-solvers who thrive as positive change agents in a globally diverse society

through supportive interactions, exemplary scholarship, spiritual development, and purposeful community service.

Publication opportunities

CEPA fosters career aspirations by providing opportunities to publish in the conference proceedings, including articles from any academic discipline which serve to contribute to interdisciplinary understanding.

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