CNE Board Development Academy Fellowship Program Guidance  
August 2014

CNE’s mission is to strengthen nonprofits to realize the community’s potential; one of the ways we do this is by helping nonprofits build organizational capacity to govern. It is a board principle that CNE demonstrate good governance as well as teach it.

CNE’s Board Development Academy (Academy) is a 4-month program that teaches community members how to be engaged and effective board members. We believe a Board Development Academy fellowship program for Academy graduates will not only strengthen CNE board governance, but also will help the Academy achieve its goal of widening the path to board service in our region.

The Board Development Academy Fellowship program will be structured according to the following guidelines:

- **Goal**: To engage recent Board Development Academy graduates as CNE board members, giving Academy fellows an immediate opportunity to apply their Academy knowledge and skills and the CNE board a fresh perspective on CNE and its board governance.
- **Structure**: CNE’s Governance Committee will manage the fellowship program. Each year, one to three Academy graduates will be invited to join the CNE board each for one-year terms. Academy fellows will participate in all board activities, and may advise on all issues before the board, but will be non-voting members.
- **Selection**: Academy fellows will be nominated by the CNE Governance Committee and subject to the same vetting and approval process as other board members. The Governance Committee will seek input from Academy faculty and staff in making fellow selections.
- **Activity**:
  - **Fellows**: Academy fellows will be asked to provide structured feedback after each board or committee meeting, with encouragement to ask the why? And why not? questions of the board. At the end of their fellowship year, fellows will be invited to provide a report to the board with thoughts, observations and recommendations for CNE board governance. The Governance Committee also will schedule an exit interview with each fellow.
  - **CNE Board**: Fellows will be given a board orientation at the start of the fellowship year; matched with a CNE board mentor for their tenure; and encouraged to establish individual board goals for his or her fellowship year.