CNE Board Academy Fellowship Program Guidance  
October 2019

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 Academy (Academy) is a 4-month program that teaches community members how to be engaged and effective board members. We believe a Board 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 Academy Fellowship program will be structured according to the following guidelines:

**Goals:**
1. To engage recent Board Academy graduates as non-voting CNE board members.
2. To give Academy fellows an immediate opportunity to apply their Academy knowledge and skills.
3. To give the CNE board a fresh perspective on CNE and its board governance.
4. To achieve Board Academy’s goal of widening the path to board service in our region.

**Structure:**
CNE’s Governance Committee will manage the Fellowship program. Each year, one to two Academy Graduates will be invited to join the CNE board each for a two-year Board Fellowship term. Board Academy Fellows will participate in all board activities and may advise on all issues before the board as non-voting members. Throughout the fellowship, regular check-ins with Academy Fellows will occur to ensure that the fellowship is mutually beneficial to both the CNE and the Board Fellow.

**Selection:**
Academy graduates will be given the opportunity to apply for the fellows program as they complete the Academy. Fellows will then be nominated by the CNE Governance Committee and subject to the same vetting and approval process as other board members. Additionally, Academy fellows will participate in an in-person interview with a designated Governance Committee member. The Governance Committee will seek input from Academy faculty and staff in making fellow selections.
• **Activity:**

  *Fellows:* Activities of the Academy fellows will be detailed in a Board Academy Fellow Annual Affirmation of Service (2-year Program). Fellows will acknowledge their commitment to the responsibilities set forth for each year of the Fellowship by signing the Affirmation of Service annually.

  *CNE Board:* The Governance Committee will offer an annual board orientation. A CNE board member will be assigned to act as a fellow-mentor for the first year of each fellows’ 2-year fellowship. The CNE Board will encourage active participation from all non-voting mentors.