Vision of the Board Fellow program:
- Engage recent Board Academy graduates as non-voting CNE board members.
- Give Academy Fellows an immediate opportunity to apply their Academy knowledge and skills.
- Give the CNE board a fresh perspective on CNE and its board governance.
- Achieve Board Academy’s goal of widening the path to board service in our region.

Key recommended changes to the program:

Tenure: move from a 1-year to a 2-year program
- This change would allow Fellows to learn more about CNE and board membership in the first year, and make a more significant contribution in the 2nd year.
- While the commitment would be for 2 years, the Governance Committee and Fellow Mentor will collaborate with the Fellows to ensure CNE Board service continues to be the right fit for both CNE and the Fellows throughout the 2-year term.
- For this year’s fellows, we would offer both the opportunity to continue to year 2, but starting with our new Academy class we would offer only 1 fellowship slot per year. As a result, we would have two fellows total at any given time: a year 1 fellow and a year 2 fellow, with the expectation that the year 2 fellow can help orient and mentor the year 1 fellow.

Application process updates
- Fellows will be nominated by the CNE Governance Committee and subject to the same vetting and approval process as other board members. Until now, the Governance Committee has handled Fellow selection independently.
- Board Fellow Applicants will be asked whether they have or need their employer’s support for the Fellowship, given the 2-year commitment and workday hour meetings.