

Transformational Leadership & Global Insights

The ESA Leadership Academy is a yearlong professional learning experience for up to 25 ESA CEOs, designed to cultivate strategic, entrepreneurial leadership. This exclusive program brings together a diverse network of visionary leaders to understand and explore their unique needs and interests. Through a combination of in-person and virtual learning experiences, including international travel, participants will gain actionable insights and tools to drive sustainable growth, innovation, and long-term impact in an evolving educational landscape.

2025-26 Academy Session Schedule and Overview of Planned Content

Session 1 In Person	July 17–18, 2025 Region 13, Austin, TX <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Content: <i>Transforming Your ESA with Entrepreneurial Leadership</i> Plan to Attend the AESA Summer Leadership Conference (July 15-17, 2025)
Session 2 Virtual	August 28, 2025 • 2:00 – 4:00 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Content: <i>Cultivating Rigorous Ingenuity: The Key to Organizational Innovation</i>
Session 3 In Person	September 19-20, 2025 • Site TBD, Washington DC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Content: <i>The Voice of Leadership: How Public Narrative Fuels Advocacy and Entrepreneurial Leadership</i> Note: September 17-19, 2025 - Advocacy in Action Conference
Session 4 Virtual	October 23, 2025 • 2:00 – 4:00 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Content: <i>The Future is Now: How Leaders Use AI to Drive Innovation and Growth</i>
Session 5 In Person	December 5-6, 2025 • The Broadmoor, Colorado Springs, CO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Content: <i>Research Insights and Actions for ESA Leaders</i> Note: December 3-5, 2026 - Annual Conference
Session 6 Virtual	February 10, 2026 • 2:00 – 4:00 PM EST <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Content: <i>How Entrepreneurial Leaders Create and Sustain Business Development for Lasting Impact</i>
Session 7 In Person	TBD March/April 2026: International Trip to Spain and Portugal Theme: <i>Digital Citizenship Education and Best Practices</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Professional Learning & Institutional Visits: Meetings with schools, universities, and education organizations open to collaboration.</i> <i>Cultural Immersion: Experiences that connect history and society with education.</i> <i>Networking: Opportunities for relationship-building with local educators and policymakers.</i>
Session 8 Virtual	May 14, 2026 • 2:00 – 4:00 PM EST Academy Content: <i>Understanding the Edge that Highly Successful Leaders Create for Themselves</i>
Session 9 In Person	July 2027 • Summer Leadership Conference; Dates and Location TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Academy Content: <i>Reflections, Reports & Recommendations from the Academy.</i>

Participant Requirements, Expectations, and Tuition

Each applicant must complete [this online application](#) and:

- Be a current CEO in an ESA with at least two years of experience.
- Attend all virtual and in-person events, including the international trip and all three AESA conferences: Summer Leadership Conference, the Advocacy in Action Conference, and the Annual Conference.
- Possess a valid passport by October 1, 2025.
- Pay AESA \$13,000; tuition includes all academy sessions and the international travel experience.
 - Each agency covers all CEO travel expenses, except for the international travel experience, which is included in the price of tuition.
 - Participants may choose to pay 50% of the tuition in fiscal year 2025, with total payment due by 3/1/2026.
 - The AESA Foundation will also be taking applications for potential scholarships.