

The world is changing faster than we can keep up, especially with AI tools. While everyone debates which tools to use, what really matters isn't the technology—it's how we think, lead, and make decisions amid constant change.

That's a *mindset challenge*, and one that's often overlooked.

Ascend Academy is a year-long leadership lab for experienced ESA leaders ready to move beyond the tools conversation and into the harder questions: how to lead well as everything accelerates, how to maintain judgment, clarity, and trust, and how to lead when change outpaces what organizations can absorb.

Structure of the Experience

Date	Format	Details	Location/Time
May 12, 2026	Virtual Roundtable	Roundtable: <i>Mindset Over Machines</i> (included)	3:00–4:00 pm ET
September 14–16, 2026	In-Person Convening	Hosted by Region 10	Dallas, TX
October 13, 2026	Virtual Leadership Lab	Session 1	12:00–1:30 pm ET
November 19, 2026	Virtual Leadership Lab	Session 2	12:00–1:30 pm ET
February 16, 2027	Virtual Leadership Lab	Session 3	12:00–1:30 pm ET
March 16, 2027	Virtual Leadership Lab	Session 4	12:00–1:30 pm ET
April 26–28, 2027	In-Person Convening	Hosted by Western Region Education Service Alliance	Asheville, NC

What Participants Will Gain

Participants will leave Ascend Academy with:

- A practical framework for leading through acceleration, built on principles that hold up no matter what tools come next.
- A stronger sense of judgment about AI as a leadership practice, not a technical skill.
- A trusted peer network built through a year of honest dialogue and applied problem-solving with experienced ESA leaders.
- A clearly articulated, pressure-tested personal leadership stance.

Investment

Tuition includes all program activities and meals during in-person convenings. Enrollment is limited to 25 participants.

\$3,425 per participant



About the Facilitator

Dr. Eric Solomon is a cognitive psychologist, professor, and former executive at YouTube, Instagram, Spotify, and Google whose work connects leadership, human behavior, and AI. As Founder and CEO of The Human Operating System, he helps leaders strengthen judgment, clarity, and trust as AI reshapes decision-making and culture. His work has appeared in *Harvard Business Review* and *Psychology Today*, and he delivered a widely viewed TED Talk in 2025.