

2026-27 Program Overview

Leading with Courage, Influencing with Integrity, and Speaking with Power

The Academy for Women Leaders is a year-long leadership development experience designed to support women leaders in Educational Service Agencies (ESAs) as they strengthen their courage, influence, and communication in service of more purposeful, powerful leadership. Through a blend of immersive retreats, virtual learning sessions, and relationship-building opportunities, participants engage in reflection, skill-building, storytelling, and real-world application around themes such as leading with courage, influencing with integrity, speaking with power, and integrating these capacities in complex leadership contexts. The program is designed to help women deepen self-awareness, expand their leadership presence, build trusted networks, and lead with greater clarity, confidence, and impact across their organizations and the ESA field.

Facilitators: Jessica Huizenga and Sheila King

Location & Schedule	Focus Areas
Fall Retreat • Location TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 5, 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Travel Day and Informal Social • October 6, 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Morning and Afternoon Sessions ○ Breakfast, Lunch provided onsite ○ Group Dinner offsite • October 7, 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Morning and Afternoon Sessions ○ Breakfast, Lunch provided onsite ○ Afternoon ends by 3:30 pm 	Empowered Women Shaping the Future with Purpose and Passion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day 1: Identity, Courage, and Influence • Day 2: Storytelling & Commitment
November 12, 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:00- 3:30 pm Eastern Time • Zoom Meeting 	Leading with Courage: Step into bold leadership by navigating change, making tough decisions, and taking value-driven risks.
Hilton Orlando <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date TBD 2026 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual Conference & Expo 	In-Person Networking Lunch Leading with Purpose: Crafting your journey through reflection and authentic connections
January 2027 • No Academy Meeting	
February 1, 2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:00- 3:30 pm Eastern Time • Zoom Meeting 	Influence with Integrity: Strengthen your impact by building trust, fostering collaboration, and guiding others without relying on positional authority.

<p>Spring Retreat • Location TBD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 8, 2027 (<i>International Women’s Day</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Travel Day and Informal Social • March 9, 2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Morning and Afternoon Sessions ○ Breakfast, Lunch provided onsite ○ Group Dinner offsite • March 10, 2027 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Morning and Afternoon Sessions ○ Breakfast, Lunch provided onsite ○ Afternoon ends by 3:30 pm 	<p>Speak with Power: Strengthen your communication presence and practice powerful language, framing, and delivery.</p>
<p>April 28, 2027</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:00- 3:30 pm Eastern Time • Zoom Meeting 	<p>Integrating Courage, Integrity, and Power: Apply the experiences to complex, adaptive, real-world ESA challenges and opportunities.</p>



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