Western New York Parent Leader Institute

What is the Western New York Parent Leader Institute (WNYPLI)?
The WNYPLI is a four-month program designed to help parents who want to make a positive impact and influence change within their community, school, volunteer group, home etc. This program will cover many topics, such as:

- Having a better understanding of oneself.
- Understanding what leadership is and traits of good leaders.
- Tips for good problem solving.
- Current “hot topics” parents are facing.
- Coming up with and writing goals that you can reach.
- Advocacy.
- Effective communication skills.
- Helping others achieve their goals.
- Tips for having difficult conversations.

The program will give knowledge and skills that will build confidence in every learner to influence change wherever desired.

What is the format?
The program is designed to be flexible and meet the many demands of life. The learning takes place remotely through a computer. Some learning will take place in small groups and other times will be working by yourself. Translating services can be leveraged for EL Learners. Additionally, each learner will be offered up to two hours of private coaching with the Instructor.
When are the sessions held?
There are four full-day on-line sessions: Saturday, August 15 Saturday, September 12 Saturday, October 3 Saturday, November 7 with Graduation November. There will be other classes learners will participate in that are also online, these electives will be no more than two hours in length. Online elective schedule will be announced at the beginning of the program. While participating in live online learning sessions is the best way to learn and connect with the instructor and other learners, each online elective will be recorded and available to learners to view if participating in the live session is not an option or learners need to review what was shared.

What are the expectations of the participants?
• To be motivated, take initiative and have a desire to learn.
• To complete the entire four-month program requirements.
• To attend and actively participate in all sessions.
• To complete application and field assignments.
• To participate in group learning activities.
• To approach learning, the other learners and instructor with dignity and respect.
• To arrive on time and prepared for all learning and coaching sessions.
• To create a mini project of how the learning impacted you.
• To participate in graduation and a brief presentation.
• Learners will have the opportunity to attend future programs to share experiences and provide insight and encouragement.
• Learners will be asked to participate in a short-recorded interview to share about their experience at the end of the program.

Who is a good fit for this program?
Any parent, guardian, caretaker, family member, advocate, community member or other person who directly helps a person in need of support who desires to influence change in the Health and Human Services field. The application of learning can be for many reasons that are either for a personal benefit or community benefit.

What’s in it for me?
You will grow! Every learner will experience personal transformation through their committed participation of the program. Through encouragement and challenge you will broaden your understanding of leadership and develop skills that will be practical for you to apply within your sphere of influence. This program will provide personal and professional growth.

Does this give me credits for college or a certificate of some kind?
While completing this program will not provide official college credits or CEU (Continuing Education Units), the value of the program is strong and will help people achieve their goals.
What if I want to go above and beyond? Are there extra learning opportunities?
For learners seeking to be challenged beyond the required work, additional elective courses will be offered as well as a mentorship experience to provide hands on experience and promote social capital (relationship with others).

Is there a cost? What do I need to participate?
This is a unique educational opportunity with NO COST to participants. Books, articles and materials will be available via Tablet that every participant will receive to use during the program. Upon completion of the entire program each learner will be given the tablet to keep.

What if I am not, or was not, a strong student in school, should I still apply?
Absolutely! Anyone who really wants to learn will be successful and given needed supports and resources. If you work hard and give it your best, the program will be rewarding and of great value to you. Do not hesitate to apply.

Are there makeup sessions in case I miss an in-person session?
There are no makeup sessions or classes, but you will be provided all learning materials for every session and learners can also use their coaching hours to review material with the Instructor if preferred. Each learner will also have small teams in which they can use as a resource for questions and discussions.