

Life Together Leadership Fellows Program
Spring 2025

Application – Due January 31, 2025

As a continuation of the “Life Together: Advancing the Common Good in a Diverse Democracy” initiative, which began in the fall of 2024, Syracuse University will be offering a **Life Together Leadership Fellows Program**, a four-part, noncredit, training seminar that will be offered over an eight-week period between February and April of 2025. There will be four two-hour training sessions that take place in the early evening (5-7 pm), on February 17, March 5, March 19 and April 2. Participants who successfully complete the training will be awarded a micro-credential in Civic Engagement Leadership by the Program for the Advancement of Research on Conflict and Collaboration in the Maxwell School.

This training program is open to Syracuse University students, faculty and staff. Space for the program is limited. The training program is designed to advance the skills and orientations of participants as civic engagement leaders. Each session will focus on advancing one of the four civic skills areas at the heart of the Life Together initiative. These include:

- a. **Active Listening:** Demonstrates active listening skills to understand diverse perspectives and to foster the relationships needed for civic/global engagement.
- b. **Critical reasoning:** The ability to identify and evaluate information that is relevant to specific civic opportunities and challenges.
- c. **Inclusive Advocacy:** The ability to craft and articulate a position persuasively, within a diverse community.
- d. **Advancing the common good:** The ability to engage in open dialogue on complex topics, and to collaborative within a diverse group to identify and advance collective goals.

Each session will focus on reviewing and discussing educational materials, engaging in group based skill- building exercises, and exploring how particular skills might be used to advance civic engagement on an issue of public interest.

In addition, each participant will be invited to develop a plan for a project that promotes democratic engagement and advances the common good on an issue of public interest. Submitted plans will be reviewed by an expert panel late in the spring semester, and a small amount of grant funding and mentoring will be available to further develop and pilot selected projects. Participants will also be encouraged to attend at least one of the other events being co-sponsored by the “Life Together” series.

The training sessions will be led by Professor Catherine Gerard, former director of PARCC, and Dr. Gretchen Ritter, Vice President for Civic Engagement and Education.

Application questions

(Due to parcccmc@syr.edu by January 31, 2025)

1. Name:
2. Status (faculty, staff, student – please indicate your status, title or affiliation)
3. Are you able to commit to the four scheduled two-hour training sessions for this program (February 17, March 5, March 19, and April 2)?

 Yes
 No
 Unsure (please explain)
4. (Optional) Relevant experience or background, e.g., prior related trainings you have done, leadership positions you have held, community efforts you have participated in, etc.
5. What are you hoping to gain or achieve through this training program?
6. What particular civic or community issues you are interested in?
7. Please add anything else you would like for the organizers to know about you as they consider your application.