



Session I, July 12-14, 2017

8. Practicing Personal Leadership: Tapping into Our Highest and Best as Intercultural, Diversity, and Equity Professionals

Have you noticed how cultural differences ignite even experienced intercultural and diversity and inclusion professionals to interact in ways that hamper high performance or render it impossible?

This workshop provides a system that allows you to step up to your highest and best in interpersonal and intercultural situations (across, for example, nationality, gender, race, ethnicity, and religion), even when your neighbors and colleagues embody significantly different degrees of intercultural sensitivity.

The workshop is designed for those who seek to deepen their intercultural practice and effectiveness. The group will form a “living laboratory” to enact and explore the practices and principles of Personal Leadership.

Designed for: Those who seek to deepen their intercultural effectiveness, including those living and/or working in cultural situations either domestically or internationally. A general familiarity with intercultural theory is helpful but not required.

Workshop Objectives

You will have the opportunity to:

- Apply the principles and practices of Personal Leadership to your real-life and real-time experiences
- Articulate—and align with—personal visions of what it means for you to be an interculturalist or diversity professional operating at your “highest and best” across difference
- Understand the history, theoretical foundations, and context for the development of the Personal Leadership system
- Consider the cultural and intercultural implications of Personal Leadership and the relationship between Personal Leadership and other intercultural and developmental theories and models such as the Developmental Model of Intercultural Sensitivity, conflict styles, learning styles, etc.
- Enjoy a deeply self-reflective process in the context of an inspiring and energizing community

Learning Activities

The group will create a “living laboratory,” with activities including:

- Short presentations on the framework of Personal Leadership
- In-depth collaborative discussion of the practices of Personal Leadership in diverse contexts
- Self-assessment and self-reflection
- Analysis of case studies drawn from participants and faculty
- Peer exchange and consultation on the application of Personal Leadership to real-life and real-time scenarios



Dr. Gordon C. Watanabe, a founding partner of Personal Leadership Seminars, consults in corporate, educational, and other organizational settings on Personal Leadership, diversity, and intercultural competence. He is a professor emeritus and former special assistant to the president for intercultural relations at Whitworth University, where he focused on the role of deep self-understanding in successful cross-cultural negotiations and intercultural team building. Gordon was initiated as a meditation teacher in 2000, and now also offers energy meditation seminars. He has taught middle school biology and teacher education, and advised and counseled university-level international, study abroad, and minority students. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Intercultural Communication Institute.