



Entrepreneurial Leaders Testimonials

Entrepreneurial Leaders introduces participants to the entrepreneurial university concept. It encourages entrepreneurial thinking, mind-set and behaviour that can be embedded into institutions.

The programme offers entrepreneurial leaders the opportunity to interact with influential policy makers, leading vice-chancellors and experts in the field of university education. This gives them valuable insight and strategies on how to positively respond to change.

Entrepreneurial leaders benefit from this programme as individuals and return to their institution armed with knowledge and innovative ideas to react to, and drive, change within their university.

But don't just take our word for it, the following testimonials have been provided by previous participants to highlight their experience of taking part in the programme and the benefits they gained.

For further discussion about the benefits of the programme please contact Professor Lesley Dobree, Entrepreneurial Leaders Programme Director Lesley.Dobree@ncee.org.uk



Professor Jess Power SFHEA NTF
Associate Dean, Students – Staffordshire University



The NCEE Entrepreneurial Leaders programme was one of the most inspirational and thought provoking development course that I have attended. It opened up debate and dialogue regarding some fundamental challenges the sector is facing and introduced sector leaders to facilitate networking from a wide range of institutions both in the UK and beyond. It encouraged and inspired me to continue working to develop a genuine culture of innovation and entrepreneurialism in Higher Education. Making me much more aware of what I do, don't do and need to do to facilitate positive change. Entrepreneurial Leaders has made me more confident of my own leadership style and equipped me with tools and opened up new approaches to alternative leadership styles which can be used in an ever changing landscape of Higher Education. It has made me more aware of similarities and differences across the sector and how challenges have been turned into opportunities, though adopting an entrepreneurial mind-set.

Entrepreneurial Leaders encourages individuals to see themselves as agents of positive change and to maximise their ability to problem-solve, think more analytically and generally be effective leaders within Higher Education. It challenged perceptions and pre-conceived ideas by focusing on the interface between different forces and stakeholders and how we respond to these as a sector, individual organisations and personally within our teams. The compelling visions and empowerment of others was a key element in the course and the sharing of best practice was incredibly valuable. The line-up of speakers was impressive, both in terms of influence and the change agendas that have been initiated. There was an openness and honesty from the presenters who were prepared to share their successes and high points but also their mistakes, tensions and challenges. Crucially, they were able to pass on the lessons learned through these very personal and powerful experiences.

This atmosphere of candidness and trust means that Entrepreneurial Leaders provided a unique and invaluable insight into how other leaders and other universities operate. In times of change and increasing uncertainty, energy levels within organisations and the teams which we operate need to be balanced and nurtured to develop creative thinking and resilience to think outside the box. Working in small groups throughout Entrepreneurial Leaders meant we quickly developed a culture of mutual respect, curiosity and support to explore these important issues. Through the tutor groups we formed an informal strong, supportive network of fellow professionals, in which to soundboard ideas. We are in regular contact with one another and have continued to meet up in person several times since, once taking an international trip to Copenhagen providing further opportunities to motivate, inspire and learn from each other, and also learn from our hosts.

Visiting and spending time at other universities and understanding the wider sector context is another beneficial aspect of the Programme. It feels very different to attending a one-day conference or a meeting at another university. You have the time to really get to know other organisations, seeing new possibilities, innovations and ideas that can be placed in context to your own organisation.

For more information about the Entrepreneurial Leaders Programme please visit [ncee.org.uk](https://www.ncee.org.uk)



Professor David Amigoni

Pro Vice Chancellor, Research and Enterprise - Keele University

The word 'entrepreneur' can sometimes conjure up visions of a competitive and ruthless world, as portrayed in TV shows such as The Apprentice, where success is often seen as coming at the expense of others. Any such preconceptions regarding the NCEE's Entrepreneurial Leaders are quickly dispelled.



Working closely with others throughout the three modules, we collectively developed our ability to analyse and frame challenges and we were encouraged to adopt a credible academic route to entrepreneurial action. Entrepreneurial Leaders delivered this time and time again. It was inspiring and surpassed my expectations of what an innovative leadership programme would deliver for me personally, the wider staff team and ultimately for our students.

Change can be anxiety-fuelling and higher education seems to be going through a period of constant change. Entrepreneurial Leaders provided a platform to share common challenges and opportunities that this shifting landscape presents. A wide range of situations and subjects are covered comprehensively with important issues such as balancing economic aspects with our vital social impact and our civic responsibility within our respective communities.

I found Entrepreneurial Leaders gets right to the heart of the far-reaching benefits of creative thinking within a higher education context: developing a flexible, innovative approach, taking advantage of opportunities and maximising the adaptive capacity of an Institute to meet constantly changing demands. It is hugely enjoyable, and I loved the open and collaborative atmosphere that gave everyone permission to be curious, ask the difficult questions and get honest and forthright answers from some very experienced speakers and fellow delegates.