



Management Leadership Institute 2026

July 19–23, 2026 | Atlanta, GA | naceweb.org/MLI

Why This Institute Matters Now

Career centers are being asked to do more than ever—expand employer partnerships, scale career readiness across campus, improve internship outcomes, and demonstrate impact through data.

At the same time, many teams are navigating staffing constraints, evolving technology, and increasing expectations from institutional leadership.

The **Management Leadership Institute (MLI)** is designed specifically for career services professionals responsible for leading teams, managing strategy, and advancing institutional outcomes.

Unlike traditional conferences or webinars, MLI is an **immersive, cohort-based leadership program** designed to create the **deepest learning and fastest impact**. Over several intensive days, participants step away from day-to-day responsibilities to focus on leadership development, strategic thinking, and practical solutions they can bring back to their campuses.

This immersive format accelerates learning, allowing participants to engage deeply with expert faculty and peers while developing strategies they can immediately apply in their career centers.

Key Benefits for Our Institution

1. Deep Leadership Development Through Immersive Learning

Leadership skills are difficult to develop through short sessions or online training alone.

The immersive structure of the institute allows participants to:

- Engage deeply with leadership concepts and frameworks
- Reflect on their current management approach
- Apply new strategies through interactive exercises
- Receive feedback from experienced facilitators and peers

This format creates a **more meaningful and lasting learning experience** than traditional professional development.

2. Faster Impact on Career Center Strategy

Because the institute focuses on **practical application**, participants return with strategies that can be implemented immediately.

Key areas of focus include:

- Strategic planning for career centers
- Managing and developing high-performing teams
- Expanding employer engagement and internship pipelines
- Aligning career services work with institutional priorities

The goal is not just learning—but **accelerating real impact on campus**.

3. Practical Solutions from Peer Institutions

One of the most valuable aspects of MLI is the opportunity to learn alongside other career services leaders facing similar challenges.

Participants collaborate with peers to explore:

- Innovative approaches to employer partnerships
- Models for scaling career readiness across campus
- Strategies for supporting first-generation and underrepresented students
- Organizational structures that enable career center growth

These conversations help participants benchmark against peer institutions and bring back tested ideas.

4. Leadership Capacity That Benefits the Entire Team

Leadership development doesn't just benefit the individual, it strengthens the entire career center.

Participants return with tools to:

- Lead more effectively through change
- Develop and mentor staff members
- Align team priorities with institutional goals
- Advocate for career services across campus

The result is a stronger, more strategic career center.

Return on Investment

Professional development investments should translate into tangible improvements for the institution. Attending MLI supports ROI through:

Improved team effectiveness

Better leadership practices strengthen staff engagement and productivity.

Stronger employer partnerships

Participants gain strategies to expand recruiting relationships and internship opportunities.

Greater alignment with institutional goals

Participants develop frameworks for connecting career services work to student success and employment outcomes.

Immediate implementation

Because the program is immersive and application-focused, participants return ready to implement new strategies.

Why NACE

NACE is the leading professional association connecting career services professionals and employers. Its programs are grounded in research, employer trends, and best practices in career readiness.

MLI builds on this expertise by focusing specifically on the leadership and management skills needed to guide career centers into the future.

Recommended Next Steps

Attending MLI (July 19-23, 2026) is an investment in leadership capacity and student career outcomes.

Following the institute, participants will:

- Share insights and strategies with their career services team
- Identify leadership practices that can improve team effectiveness
- Implement strategies to strengthen employer engagement and career readiness programming
- Apply new approaches to advancing student career outcomes

By strengthening leadership within the career center, our institution can continue to enhance the career success of our students and alumni.

Questions?

We'd love to talk! Contact us at events@naceweb.org to learn more.