



Executive Seminar in Natural Resources Leadership (ESP)

2025-2026 Advisory Board

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Advisory Board Role & Planning Cycle

Advisory Board Member Role

The Advisory Board is crucial to the ongoing guidance, direction and success of the Executive Seminar Program. Advisory Board members play five key roles:

1. Provide general program oversight and feedback;
2. Forecast specific emphases or needs for leadership development in your agency;
3. Suggest possible program year themes or areas of focus;
4. Suggest specific case study ideas and contacts for further exploration of cases;
5. Assist with outreach to your agency and facilitate recruitment.

Meetings and Time Commitment

Specifically, Advisory Board members are asked to participate in two meetings per year: in winter/spring for a two-hour lunch meeting to plan for the coming program year and receive an update on current year; in June for a morning and early afternoon to meet with program participants and to finalize preparations for the coming year. During the year, members assist with outreach and recruitment to their agencies about ESP. Periodic informal consultation by phone, e-mail or-in person at other times of the year with program staff is welcomed and appreciated.

Winter/Spring

1. Advisory Board meets to receive update on current program year.
2. Brainstorm possibilities for the next year's theme/focus and possible cases.
3. Clarify timelines and expectations.

June

1. Advisory Board participates in current program year Capstone presentations, meets with cohort members, provides observations and feedback.
2. Advisory Board meets to finalize coming year theme/focus and cases and to project agency participation in coming year.
3. Advisory Board members provide early commitments for agency enrollment for the coming year.

August-September

1. Program staff prepares cases and launches recruitment for the coming year. Advisory Board members assist with the recruitment process. Final enrollment deadline is August 31.

Questions or more information? Contact Elizabeth Holmes Gaar, Director, PSU Executive Seminar Program, at 503-341-4019 or elizabg@pdx.edu.