



2010 n4a Aging Business Academy Highlights

Ten teams of highly motivated AAA leaders and associates (board and advisory group members and partner organizations), representing every region of the country, launched the new n4a Aging Business Academy November 14-16, 2010, at an intensive two-day workshop at Miami University in Oxford, OH. The 2010 Aging Business Academy Workshop brought together a diverse mix of leadership teams to build on projects they designed in advance and will continue to develop, with technical assistance, in the coming months.

With its partners, the U.S. Administration on Aging and Scripps Gerontology Center, n4a provided peer-led, consultant-supported training for local Aging Network leaders. Thirty participants worked closely with 11 faculty members in presentations, breakout sessions and direct consultation regarding their projects. Participants completed pre-workshop exercises to prepare to maximize their learning experience; they received stipends to offset travel costs and free meals and lodging during their stay at the university.

The n4a Aging Business Academy succeeds the Business Institute conducted in previous years, and is intended to take participants to the “next level” of development in a number of core competencies. The curriculum focused on skill and knowledge development along five themes: strategic planning, business planning, resource development, innovation and performance measurement/ management.

Every team was unique, but many expressed that the team approach enabled them to both enhance their project plan and strengthen their bonds for collaboration toward institutional/community change on return home. During the final six months of the Academy experience, teams will take advantage of technical assistance through one-on-one work with the Academy consultant, Erika Walker of Sage Wave, LLC, and with faculty and other peer consultants, and through targeted webinars and other forms of support.

At the concluding session of the Academy workshop, participants reported changes in both their outlook and in concrete plans for their projects. n4a looks forward to evaluating this new approach to increasing the capacity of the Aging Network to anticipate and respond to community needs. Tangible outcomes will be tracked and reported, and best practices highlighted in the n4a READI Center on the website. Stay tuned!

Look for tools and exercises used to guide workshop participants under "Resources" in the n4a READI Center.

www.n4a.org/resources-publications/readi-center/