



Expanding the Bench YEAR IN REVIEW

Since Change Matrix began leading Expanding the Bench™ approximately one year ago, we accomplished many milestones. From increasing the number of diverse evaluators in our ACE Evaluation Network and LEEAD Program, to mapping out field building strategies that align with our theory of change, ETB has a lot to celebrate! Much of what we have done includes listening, learning and sharing. As we grow in 2020, our bench will continue to expand.

ETB SNAPSHOT



18%

increase in ACE Evaluation Network membership between the launch of the database and the end of our Call for Qualifications.



11

LEEAD Scholars or Alumni led a presentation, gathering, workshop, lecture, and/or demonstration at the American Evaluation Association Conference.



50+

in-person or virtual meetings with funders and Expanding the Bench field building allies in 2019. We now have **3 returning and 9 new funding partners!**

IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

Our two-day LEEAD Symposium and Reception (September 24 and 25, 2019) led to knowledge growth and relationship-building. We asked our participants and supporters about their experience with Expanding the Bench. Here's what they said:

On the ACE Evaluation Network

I have actually done some collaborative work as a result of this (ACE Evaluation Network), so it allows you to not only have that local, but that national connection... I also enjoy having the opportunity just to get on the phone and talk to individuals when I am looking to get some additional expertise, as well as being that source of expertise when people call me. ”

DR. SHAROLYN HARRISON
ACE Evaluation Network Member since 2015



On the LEEAD Program

We were having a conversation at lunch where we were thinking 'gosh, we took all these incredible courses and yet this conversation didn't happen for many of us' and we know it (culturally-responsive and equitable evaluation) instinctively, but now we're getting tools to really think about how to do this work and this is why the program is so important. ”

DR. TAMARA CADET
2019 - 2020 LEEAD Scholar

On Fundraising & Capacity Building

We are an ETB Funding Partner, and in that role we are not only supporting ETB financially but we are a champion - we work very closely with the Change Matrix team to really identify other funding partners from across the country who are interested in engaging in this work, as supporters, as funders but also as people who can use the ACE Database and recognize the value of diversifying the team of evaluators and the firms that they engage with. ”

DR. KANTAHYANEE MURRAY
The Annie E. Casey Foundation,
ETB Funding Partner



OUR TOP 12 ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 12 MONTHS

1 Launched the ETB website, Bench (Re)Marks, ACE Evaluation Network Note, and social media platforms. We disseminate and highlight opportunities to over 1,500 ETB supporters.

2 Convened an ETB Advisory Team, consisting of seven ACE Evaluation Network, five LEEAD, and nine Funding advisors to provide input on our core strategies and our developing Theory of Change.

3 Partnered with American University and LEEAD Instructors to design and implement a new LEEAD curriculum focused on the theory and practice of culturally-responsive and equitable evaluation (CREE).

4 Welcomed fifteen LEEAD Scholars as part of a third cohort of diverse evaluators representing eleven states across the U.S. and various disciplines.

5 Paired LEEAD Scholars with LEEAD Mentors who are experts in the field of evaluation with fifteen or more years of experience, five of whom are also ACE Evaluation Network members.

6 Connected ACE Evaluation Network members through professional development and networking opportunities to learn about strengths and interests in evaluation, best practices, and lessons learned; and to explore opportunities for pursuing funding opportunities together.

7 Hosted the LEEAD Symposium & Reception at the Annie E. Casey Foundation to formally kick-off the LEEAD Program. Scholars built new connections with evaluation experts and each other, and expect to apply symposium learnings to their evaluation work.

8 Launched a unique space, the ACE Evaluation Network Database, for foundations and other evaluation funders to seek and retain diverse evaluators who practice CREE.

9 Twelve diverse evaluators joined our ACE Evaluation Network ready to practice CREE and lend their experience to strengthen the community.

10 Joined the CREE field-building movement through dialogue with evaluation funders, affinity groups, evaluation firms, and universities.

11 Established a formal partnership with the American Evaluation Association to develop the field of diverse evaluators and offer opportunities to enhance the practice of CREE.

12 Recruited ten Practicum Sites, that will offer twenty different project opportunities to apply CREE learnings for LEEAD Scholars in 2020.

WHERE WE HOPE TO GROW IN 2020



Develop and promote the evolving practice of CREE through networking and professional development opportunities.

Engage diverse funding partners to reach a fundraising goal of one million dollars.



Build ACE Evaluation Network membership, establish value to members, and increase awareness and use of the Network by funders of evaluation.

Contribute thought leadership through developing and disseminating products, participating in and convening CREE field building events, and engaging in strategic partnerships.



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Want to learn more about the role you can play?

Let's connect: team@expandingthebench.org



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