An Intentional Professional Leadership Curriculum Tailored for Researchers at HHMI and Beyond

NCPRE Principals

Robert A. Easter
Robert A. Easter is president emeritus of the University of Illinois, having served as the University’s 19th president from 2012-2015. He was interim chancellor from 2009-2011, serving as chief executive officer of the 42,000-student campus, and also served as interim provost and interim vice chancellor for research. From 2002-2009, he was dean of the nationally ranked College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Earlier, he served as head of the Department of Animal Sciences, where he has been a faculty member since 1976. Easter co-authored a book on livestock production and has written more than 90 peer-reviewed articles, 11 book chapters, and numerous papers for conferences and industry publications. In 2006, he was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD), and was appointed as chair in 2007. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Animal Science and an honorary Fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. He serves on the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation and the Governor’s Committee on China. Reared on a grain and livestock farm in southwest Texas, Easter earned a doctorate in animal science at the University of Illinois in 1976 and has been awarded an honorary doctorate from Iowa State University.

Nicholas Burbules
Nicholas C. Burbules is a Gutgsell Professor Educational Policy at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, in the Department of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership. He is a nationally preeminent scholar in the field of philosophy of education and is internationally recognized for his work on information technology in education. His research includes work related to ubiquitous learning, the impact of MOOCs and other instructional technologies in higher education, and a virtue ethic of communication. Professor Burbules is frequently invited to lecture at universities around the world, and a number of his publications have been translated into other languages. He holds an M.A. in philosophy and a Ph.D. in philosophy education from Stanford University.

C.K. Gunsalus
An expert on matters of research integrity, whistleblowing, ethics, and professionalism in academia, C. K. Gunsalus is a professor emerita of business and research professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s Coordinated Science Laboratory. Her professional interests include professional ethics, with an emphasis on research and organizational ethics, communication and conflict resolution. Previously, she served as Associate Provost, Special Counsel in the Office of University Counsel and Research Standards Officer at Illinois. She also was a faculty member in the Colleges of Law and Medicine. She holds a JD from the University of Illinois College of Law and an AB with Distinction in History from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has a written book on survival skills for academic leaders published by the Harvard University Press, The College Administrator’s Survival Guide (second edition, 2021) and one about preventing and responding to workplace challenges, The Young Professional’s Survival Guide: From Cab Fares to Moral Snare (Harvard Press, 2012).
Jarvis Smallfield
Jarvis Smallfield is a postdoctoral research associate at the National Center for Principled Leadership & Research Ethics (NCPRE) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is a business scholar conducting research in the areas of leader-team interactions and organizational impacts on individual differences with the ultimate goal of better understanding how each person can excel in the workplace. He seeks to improve firms’ performance and the quality of work environments by helping leaders and firms maximize the value each of their employees contributes to the organization. Jarvis holds a PhD in Business Administration from the University of Illinois Chicago, an MBA from Clemson University, and a BA in the Integrated Science Program from Northwestern University.

Benjamin C. King
Ben King is a postdoctoral research associate at the National Center for Principled Leadership & Research Ethics (NCPRE) at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His research explores non-pecuniary incentives as independent motivators for entering entrepreneurship, employee mobility, and individual and firm-level investments into human capital development. His recent published work focuses how gender bias can manifest in managers’ willingness to compete on behalf of a direct report and how this problem affects wage and achievement gaps in the workplace. Ben holds a PhD in Strategy and Entrepreneurship from the University of Maryland and received an MBA and BA degree from Brigham Young University.

Sarah Mustered
Sarah Mustered has a background in science, the humanities, and disability advocacy. She received a B.S. in Meteorology from Valparaiso University in 2012, with a focus on severe convective weather, lake effect snow, and community outreach. She spent several semesters as a tutor and TA before leaving academia to work in the local autism community, particularly with young adults. One of Sarah’s key roles at NCPRE is to connect concepts using different disciplinary lenses, leading to a better understanding of the whole. She is using her cross-disciplinary experience to assist several NCPRE initiatives and took on the role of Presentation and Teaching Lead in January 2021. She is currently serving as NCPRE’s Interim Assistant Director.
**Michael Dunne**
Michael Dunne is a film and video professional with over fifteen years experience in production and post-production. His areas of expertise include scriptwriting, cinematography, editing, coloring, and post-production supervision. He seeks to create films and videos that are visually and narratively innovative. He is the Executive Producer of Media at NCPRE.

**Dena Plemmons**
Dr. Dena Plemmons is the Director of the Research Ethics Education Program at the University of California, Riverside. Her interests are in research on research integrity and curriculum development for integrity and leadership. She has consistently been funded, as PI and Co-PI, through NIH, NSF, and ORI for her research and curriculum development in research ethics, and investigations into common and best practices in areas of scientific practice, both nationally and internationally. She serves on the Executive Board of the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, and is the Editor in Chief of the SpringerNature journal Science and Engineering Ethics. She is an expert consultant to the National Center for Principled Leadership and Research Ethics, and in that capacity contributes in the development of Labs That Work...for Everyone.

**Brent Roberts**
Brent W. Roberts is a Professor of Psychology and Director of the Center for Social and Behavioral Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Roberts received his Ph.D. from Berkeley in 1994 in Personality Psychology and worked at the University of Tulsa until 1999 when he joined the faculty at Illinois. Dr. Roberts' research focuses on replicable patterns of continuity and change in personality traits thru adulthood, life experiences associated with changes in personality traits over time, and the significance of these changes for individual functioning. Dr. Roberts conducts research on psychometric issues, in particular how to measure traits of conscientiousness and narcissism, and more recently, how to best assess socio-emotional skills. He has received multiple awards and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Basel. He has served as the Associate Editor for the Journal of Research in Personality and Psychological Science and is the past president for the Association for Research in Personality.