

# **LEADERS AND ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

---

In 2011, VCU finalized its six-year strategic plan, Quest for Distinction (<http://www.future.vcu.edu/plan/>). Explicit within the first theme, to “become a leader among national research universities in providing all students with high-quality learning/living experiences focused on inquiry, discovery and innovation in a global environment,” are several goals related to preparing students appropriately for careers in the 21st century. The Leaders and Entrepreneurs Academy for Professional Development is a new initiative sponsored by the VCU Graduate School. A companion to the Preparing Future Faculty Program, LEAPD will offer a series of short courses and experiences to assist graduate students seeking careers in industry, nonprofit organizations, health care, public service and government. Areas of study will include: how to start your own business, career search and networking skill-building, what does it mean (and take) to be a leader, enhancing communication skills, resume writing, negotiation skills, and opportunities for discovering alternative career paths for your chosen program of study. LEAPD is open to all graduate students. For more information contact the VCU Graduate School at (804) 828-2233 or visit the Graduate School website (<https://graduate.vcu.edu/development/leaders.html>).