Stanford University faculty, Silicon Valley innovators and entrepreneurs, and highly experienced managers in city and county government introduce innovative problem-solving approaches, leadership skills, and strategic thinking necessary to navigate the new realities of accelerating technological and environmental change in the American West and around the world.
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS are the new hotbeds of policy innovation and governance most affecting people’s day-to-day lives in the United States. They are the epicenters of societal transformation occurring in the global rush towards smart, zero emissions and carbon neutral futures. Local governments are providing policy leadership on issues of national and global significance such as equity, climate change, and broader sustainability. These new roles require strong, innovative, and inclusive leadership from local government executives.

LGSI@Stanford offers city managers, county executives, regional directors, and other senior local government officials the opportunity to exchange and acquire tools for improving local government performance and the analytical capacity to innovate and anticipate societal change. This program will strengthen individual capacities in public finance, negotiating and strategic planning skills, while exposing participants to innovative solutions and technological advance supporting the emergence of smarter, more resilient, sustainable, and equitable communities in California and around the world.

Stanford University faculty, Silicon Valley visionaries, and highly experienced leaders in the local government management profession challenge participants to consider long-view policy considerations and issues, such as technological advances and the transition to a low carbon economy in local government decision-making, while at the same time addressing current challenges facing our communities.

Themes covered have included strategic problem solving, smart financial management practices, community engagement, ethical practice and negotiations skills, regional energy transition and water management policy challenges, smart transport and urban infrastructure upgrading to enhance economic competitiveness at the local and regional level, and many others.

Each year the program selects a set of salient and pressing challenges for local government and brings together Stanford, industry, and local governance experts to help participants innovate appropriate solutions for their communities.

LGSI@Stanford fosters active participation and provokes insightful discussion and debate on public management issues. The program encourages networking and collaborative exchange among participants, instructors, and dedicated coaches. Participants work through group projects which allow them to merge their own professional experience with the training and guidance provided through the program. At the onset of the program, participants are paired with a senior executive coach with whom they meet at select intervals throughout the seminar, focusing on goals, professional development, and the application of lessons learned in the program to the specific context of the participants’ careers. The program is hosted in the stimulating environment of Stanford University, Silicon Valley, and the San Francisco Bay Area.
Projected Themes

**MODULE 1**

The Path of Leadership
Emerging Challenges in Local Government
Policy Innovation, Disruption & the Clean Economy

**MODULE 2**

Sustainable Energy and Transport Systems
Public Finance Management Strategy and Local Government
Sustainable Urban Systems

**MODULE 3**

Leadership, Communities & Change
Urban Decarbonization & Energy Systems Innovation
Civic Engagement, Technology & Strategy

**MODULE 4**

Ethics and Public Service
Smarter Communities
Water in the West

**MODULE 5**

Innovation & Sustainability
American Politics, Governance & the American West
Clean Innovation Solutions Lab: LGSI Team Presentations

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**Stanford University**

Stanford University, located between San Francisco and San Jose in the heart of California’s Silicon Valley, is one of the world’s leading teaching and research universities. Since its opening in 1891, Stanford has been dedicated to finding solutions to big challenges and to preparing students for leadership in a complex world.

**Doerr School of Sustainability (SDSS)**

SDSS is the university’s first new school in 70 years. Across all its activities, SDSS embeds equity, access, inclusion, and a commitment to generating solutions that benefit all people, especially those most harmed by climate change and environmental damage.

**Precourt Institute for Energy**

Stanford University’s Precourt Institute for Energy at SDSS concentrates the full talents of the University on energy research and education, from basic science and technology to policy and business. Additionally, the Institute helps the University develop energy-literate leaders through educational programs and disseminating research results. The Precourt Institute draws on experts and resources across the University to help accelerate the transition to an affordable, low-carbon energy system for the world.

**Bill Lane Center**

The Bill Lane Center for the American West is dedicated to advancing scholarly and public understanding of the past, present, and future of western North America. The Center supports research, teaching, and reporting about western land and life in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The Center is also engaged in efforts to improve governance at the state, regional and national levels in the West.

**The Rise of Silicon Valley**

In 1939, with the encouragement of their professor and mentor, Frederick Terman, Stanford alumni David Packard and William Hewlett established a little electronics company in a Palo Alto garage. That garage would later be dubbed “the Birthplace of Silicon Valley.” Over the following years, Stanford would be a wellspring of innovation, producing advances in research and the formation of many companies that have made Silicon Valley one of the most innovative and productive high-tech regions in the world.
Stanford Local Governance Summer Institute

To apply, please visit us at lgsi.stanford.edu

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