



2026 JLI Leadership Program

Description: The JLI Leadership Program is designed to be an intellectually challenging journey that empowers design professionals at every level of skill and experience, from the new college graduate to the seasoned firm principal. Starting in January, the training will be held over six months, involving a series of heavily interactive discussions, where each student will participate in thought-provoking and engaging conversations, all designed to improve leadership skills.

Four sessions will be held in person and two will be held virtually, providing flexibility and inclusiveness in participation. To deliver quality training, there will be a maximum of 16 students, allowing for personalized attention and growth. A graduation ceremony will be held during AIA Florida's annual convention, held at the Gaylord Palms in Orlando, Florida.

Honoring Mickey Jacob, FAIA, Hon. FRAIC: Mickey Jacob, FAIA, boasts a remarkable career spanning over 40 years since his graduation from the University of Detroit School of Architecture. He is not only a seasoned design professional but also embodies the principles of a Citizen Architect, where his dedication to service beyond self has been the driving force behind his extensive involvement in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the community at large.

Mickey's commitment extends to various community and charitable organizations, alongside his active engagement with the AIA since 1982. His leadership journey within the AIA is a testament to his passion, having served as the President of AIA Florida from 2004 to 2005, followed by his role as the AIA Florida/Caribbean Regional Director on the AIA National Board of Directors from 2007 to 2009. Furthermore, he held the esteemed position of AIA Vice President from 2009 to 2011, and his outstanding dedication led the AIA membership to elect him as the 2013 AIA President. Notably, he became only the second person from Florida to ever hold this prestigious position.

Curriculum: The curriculum focuses on self-assessment, transformational and motivational leadership, building an organizational culture, influencing stakeholders, and other tools to develop confidence and encourage each participant's unique leadership abilities.

Commitment to the Program: The program's effectiveness is intrinsically linked to active student engagement. Attendance is a vital requirement, and it is mandatory for all participants. To underscore their commitment, each participant *and their sponsor* will submit a signed commitment letter.

Application Process: Applicants must be AIA members. Applications will be vetted by a review committee. Individuals cannot be considered until applications and supporting documents are received by AIA Florida staff. No late applications will be accepted.

Program Schedule: Sessions will be held between 12-4 p.m. Eastern, and each session will be delivered in person or virtually. To ensure a quality experience for all students, hybrid training (i.e. concurrent in-person and virtual) will not be available. In-person training session locations are confirmed as quickly as possible, with careful consideration given to the students' travel distances and proximity to ensure convenience.

Tentative 2026 Training Schedule

- Jan. 16 and Jan. 26 – In person
- Feb. 13 – In person
- March 20 – Virtual
- April 24 – In Person
- May 15 – Virtual
- June 19 – In Person – TBD
- July TBD – Graduation at the AIA Florida Convention – Orlando

Application Deadline: 11:59 p.m. Eastern, Oct. 8

Notification of Acceptance: Dec. 1

Tuition: \$900

Payment: 50% of tuition (or \$450) is due by Dec. 19. The remaining balance is due before the first training session.