

El Camino Leadership Program Impact

Building representation and leadership opportunities.



El Camino is a leadership journey that helps participants discover their voice, strengthen their skills, expand their networks, and develop the confidence to lead and serve their communities.



Bridging Communities. Inspiring Change

www.latinoleadersroundtable.org

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About the Second Cohort



El Camino is LLRT's flagship leadership development program—a transformational journey designed to identify, develop, connect, and elevate Latino leaders so they can positively influence business, education, government, nonprofits, and civic life.

Launched in Fall 2025, our first cohort consisted of 9 participants. Our second El Camino cohort brought together 21 community leaders selected from 34 applicants. This group represents nonprofit, government, health, and education sectors.

Key demographics:

- 95% (20 Fellows) Latin/a/o/e/x
- 95% (20 Fellows) Female
- 90% (19 Fellows) first-generation college graduates
- 52% (11 Fellows) received a partial or full scholarship
- Sector Representation
 - Nonprofit: 40% (8 Fellows)
 - Wine Industry: 20% (4 Fellows)
 - Healthcare: 10% (2 Fellows)
 - Education: 10% (2 Fellows)
 - Government: 5% (1 Fellow)

Highlights & Impact

- Leadership sessions on governance, board service, and civic engagement, paired with networking events connecting fellows to community leaders across Napa Valley
- 21 Fellows graduated in March 2026
- 14 Fellows are now serving or actively applying for board or commission seats, or actively seeking political positions
- 14 Fellows have volunteered for Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation, Puertas Abiertas Community Resource Center, Napa Valley Vintners, among other community organizations
- 14 Cohort members reported feeling more confident after finishing the program



Testimonials



"What made the El Camino experience so meaningful wasn't just the incredible mentors, the honest conversations, and the encouragement I received from my compañeras, but the space created to slow down and reflect on our own leadership. I left that weekend feeling grounded, more confident in the kind of leader I want to continue becoming, and with a toolkit of skills and perspectives that I carry with me every day. Shortly after the program, I was appointed permanent Executive Director of Puertas Abiertas. El Camino didn't make me a leader, it reminded me to trust the leader I already was."

Esmeralda Gil | Executive Director at Puertas Abiertas



"In many ways, participating in the El Camino Leadership Program was a homecoming. Rather than urging me to become someone new, El Camino revealed that authentic leadership begins when we have the courage to step fully into the people we have always been. As the daughter of Mexican immigrants and a first-generation college graduate, El Camino helped me recognize that the challenges I have navigated cultivated resilience, nurtured empathy, and instilled an enduring commitment to service. The program gave me the confidence to trust that my perspective belongs in rooms where meaningful decisions are made and that my story is something to lead with."

Xiomara Ramos Villaseñor | Associate Director, Corporate Compliance at Petaluma Health Center



"El Camino Leadership Program, for me, was an incredible space to learn, engage, feel supported, and share experiences with fellow Latino professionals, all seeking to support and uplift our comunidad. It pushed me, boosted my leadership skills, and taught me that visibility is essential to achieving our goals and creating real impact."

Rocio Escobedo | Marketing and Communications Coordinator at Napa Valley Farmworkers Foundation



Testimonials



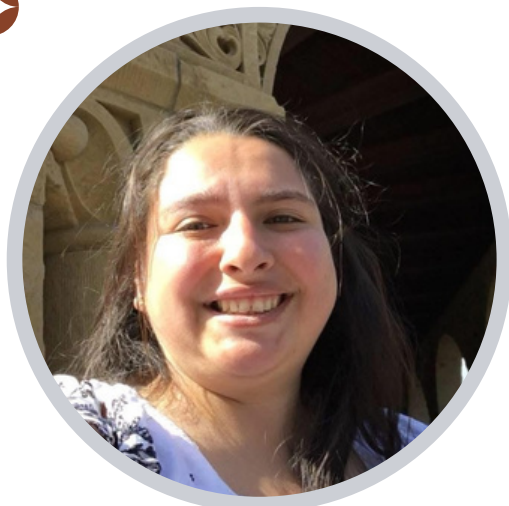
“El Camino was a very impactful program and I left feeling more empowered as a community leader. The beautiful part of El Camino is understanding that we are all on our own leadership development journey, but through this program we have built a strong network and community that we can turn to for new opportunities, resources, references, and support.”

Daniela Bazan | Brand Ambassador & Office Administrator at Bazan Cellars



“The El Camino program was a meaningful experience that strengthened my confidence, leadership skills, and sense of purpose. As a program for future Latino leaders, it provided valuable mentorship, inspiring connections, and guidance that helped me grow both personally and professionally. I’m grateful for the opportunity to learn alongside such talented individuals and would highly recommend El Camino to anyone looking to develop as a leader and make a positive impact in their community.”

Erika Velazquez | Account Executive at Relation Insurance Services



“El Camino Leadership Program became an inflection point that reminded me of the type of person I am and the type of life I want to lead in my community. I lost a little piece of myself in the transitions of life, and the program became a sacred grounding space teaching and guiding me on how to flourish once more, authentically and unapologetically. I feel more connected with myself and my community to continue doing the work that matters across the Napa Valley.”

Karina Solis | Bilingual Wellness Specialist at Calistoga Joint Unified School District



Testimonials



"Participating in the El Camino Leadership Program was a meaningful experience that strengthened both my confidence and my commitment to serving the Napa Valley community. As someone born and raised in Napa Valley and the son of immigrants, I experienced firsthand the positive impact that community organizations can have on families like mine. Those experiences inspired me to pursue a career dedicated to giving back. Through El Camino, I was surrounded by passionate leaders who shared a commitment to service, and the program reminded me of the importance of building connections with others who share that passion."

Julio Martinez | Program Coordinator at Napa Valley Farmworker Foundation



"My experience with the El Camino Leadership Program has been truly inspiring. The program gave me the confidence to believe in myself, ask questions, and continue growing within my organization. I had the privilege of connecting with professionals from diverse backgrounds and learned the importance of community, cultural awareness, and supporting one another. What I appreciate most is that we continue to stay connected like one family. Every time we come together, I feel welcomed, encouraged, and inspired by everyone's growth and dreams."

Peggy Chiprez | Brand Manager at Self-Help Federal Credit Union



"This program is for the rising professional looking to establish career goals and professional networks that share the same sentiment. It brings together a group of driven individuals and provides tools and trainings that prepare you for civic leadership positions while ensuring your values are always centered in your work. After this program, I feel connected to my peers, motivated to serve my community, and excited to continue to grow my career."

Julia Palos | Farmworker Advocate at Silverado Farming Company



Testimonials



"The El Camino Leadership Program has been one of the most meaningful experiences in my leadership journey. It challenged me to grow beyond my comfort zone, strengthened my confidence as a community leader, and connected me with an inspiring network of individuals committed to creating positive change in Napa Valley. Through the program, I gained a deeper understanding of civic engagement, collaborative leadership, and the importance of serving others with purpose. I leave this experience feeling empowered to lead with integrity, compassion, and a stronger commitment to making a lasting impact."

Danielly Ludwig | Class 2 Participant



"I'd like to say that El Camino Program came into my life at exactly the right time, just when I needed a spark of inspiration in my career path. Those two days were filled with knowledge, inspiration, reflection, and a truly beautiful and supportive community. It definitely recharged me with the energy and motivation to return to my work and my community with renewed purpose, to continue doing the heart work that means so much to me. It gave me the tools to draw on the pride and knowledge of where I come from and helped me gain the confidence to advocate for where I want to go and what I want to achieve. El Camino didn't just inspire me, it reminded me why I do this work and gave me the confidence to keep growing as a leader in my community."

**Ruth Daniela Gamez-Eusebio | Community
Engagement Coordinator at Cope Family Center**



"El Camino gave me the courage to grow in ways I hadn't anticipated, both personally and professionally. Through the support of our incredible facilitators and cohort, I found the confidence to experiment and step outside my comfort zone. It was powerful to be in a room with people who shared my core values and a deep desire to make a difference. El Camino gave us the essential tools and leadership skills to engage in deeper, more intentional conversations. Looking back, I am so grateful that our paths led us together to create a collective impact."

Evelyn Tijero | Class 2 Participant



Testimonials



“Participating in El Camino was a truly inspiring experience. It connected me with other passionate Latino leaders from my own community who are all working toward the same goal: creating positive change and uplifting our comunidad. The program gave us practical tools/strategies that we can apply in any area, but the lesson that has stayed with me most is the importance of centering relationships. It reminded me that meaningful change starts by building genuine connections, listening to others, and working together. I left El Camino feeling inspired, empowered, and even more committed to serving and uplifting our Latino community.”

Juana Navarro | Student Wellness Outreach
Coordinator at UpValley Family Center



The Momentum Continues

Recruitment for Class 3 of the El Camino Leadership Program is well underway. We've received over 58 interest form submissions to date, with a goal of selecting 20 Fellows for the next cohort launching in February 2027. The continued interest reflects the impact of our first two cohorts and the growing demand for leadership development within Napa County's Latino community.

Your support is helping build a more inclusive and representative leadership landscape in Napa County. We're excited to grow this work with you.

¡Muchas Gracias!



**Sponsorship
Information**



THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDING PARTNERS!

Our vision is simple: Every talented Latino in Napa County should have the opportunity, confidence, and network to lead. Together, we are building the next generation of leaders.