Where Are They Now?

PAST LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE FELLOWS

Kimberly J. Arriola, PhD, MPH
2016 Leadership Institute Fellow
New Roles: Dean of the Laney Graduate School, and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs-Graduate Studies, at Emory University
“Thanks to the dedicated time from Institute mentors Drs. Lisa Klesges and Sara Knight, I acquired specific leadership skills including optimally utilizing a mentor, developing courage to take on leadership roles in my institution, confidence in my voice, negotiating skills, and time management and prioritizing goals.”

Sara C. Folta, PhD
2018 Leadership Institute Fellow
New Roles: Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, and Associate Professor, at Tufts University
“The Leadership Institute gave me the confidence and skills to be able to take on this new leadership role.”

Joseph A. Greer, PhD
2016 Leadership Institute Fellow
New Roles: Associate Professor of Psychology at Harvard Medical School, Co-Director of the Cancer Outcomes Research & Education Program at Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, and President of the American Psychosocial Oncology Society
“The Leadership Institute connected me with a wonderful professional coach who provided invaluable insights for managing teams, mentoring, and growing a program of research. The 1:1 sessions with the professional coach were the best aspects of the program. I am immensely grateful for her expertise and advice.”

Sarah S. Jaser, PhD
2017 Leadership Institute Fellow
New Role: Director of the Division of Pediatric Psychology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center
“This is a new division in the Department of Pediatrics, and the Leadership Institute provided me with the tools needed for strategic planning.”

Marc T. Kiviniemi, PhD
2016 Leadership Institute Fellow
New Role: Chair of the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society, in the University of Kentucky College of Public Health
“Both the skills I gained during the Institute and, more importantly, the network of mentors and colleagues I developed through the Institute have been invaluable to me. My mentors provided guidance as I was applying for leadership positions, the team of colleagues I developed at the Institute has provided advice and support, and I regularly use the skills I learned.”
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Dorothy Pekmezi, PhD
2018 Leadership Institute Fellow
New Role: Full Professor at the University of Alabama, at Birmingham
“The Leadership Institute presented a wonderful opportunity for thoughtful, deliberate development of necessary leadership skills and provided me with tools for navigating the challenges. I am deeply appreciative to SBM for this training opportunity.”

Amanda Staiano, PhD
2019 Leadership Institute Fellow
New Role: Associate Professor at Pennington Biomedical Research Center
“The Leadership Institute sharpened my management and leadership skills, allowing me to recognize my own role and strengths on large multi-site teams, how to better empower and lead my team members, and how to form more effective collaborations with external faculty members/research labs. I learned to be more strategic with my time and partnerships, learning when to let things go.”

Katherine Y. Tossas-Milligan, PhD
2019 Leadership Institute Fellow
New Role: Assistant Professor (tenure track) at Virginia Commonwealth University
“The Leadership Institute was instrumental to help solidify my academic pursuits and be better prepared for the expectations of an academic position. Despite starting the position amidst a pandemic, I have been able to develop meaningful relationships, grow my research portfolio, and position myself for future tenure and promotion.”

Elizabeth Unni, PhD
2019 Leadership Institute Fellow
New Role: Chair of the Department of Social, Behavioral, and Administrative Sciences, at Touro College of Pharmacy
“The Institute helped me in making me feel comfortable and confident in this position. One of the main lessons I learned from the Institute was having one goal for the day and getting it completed in spite of all the meetings and emails. Most of the days, I am able to do that. The training helped me in not feeling overwhelmed and to seek help when needed.”

Karriem S. Watson, DHSc, MS, MPH
2017 Leadership Institute Fellow
New Role: Chief Engagement Officer of the National Institutes of Health All of Us Research Program
“The Leadership Institute executive coach that I had was excellent and identified some key factors that informed my ability to advance and have a professional pivot. I also met some key colleagues through the Institute that expanded my leadership support circle.”