



What LIPPI Graduates are Saying

- The experience is forever playing a role in my life. I have felt uplifted and motivated by the knowledge and the women I have met. I believe my self confidence has increased. I believe I have begun to be more of a critical thinker. And most importantly I have been trying to organize my thoughts in order to be a more articulate and effective advocate.
- Being a member of LIPPI allowed me to connect with individuals and organizations I had not been exposed to and showcase my professional talents.
- It has renewed my confidence in myself and has reopened the doors to who I was.
- I started the LIPPI program after a lifetime of ignoring politics. I had no idea how a bill was created or what went into someone's running for an office. My life had just gone in different directions. LIPPI gave me a foundation in so much that we all should actually know to understand our world today. LIPPI also prepared me for Yale! The Yale Women's Campaign School was a perfect follow-up experience going even more deeply into running for office or running a campaign. Now I get to be a community organizer in Western Mass who actually has a real clue about what we're doing, and how. Thanks LIPPI!
- LIPPI taught me how to handle dealing with those who have opposing opinions. As a person who spent most of her life as a journalist, I am used to being objective and only sharing my thoughts with close friends. So stepping out to say my stance was difficult. It's easy to argue with someone, but to be able to have an intelligent and respectful conversation about opposing political stances can be difficult. LIPPI put me in a situation where I was surrounded by people of various beliefs, backgrounds, ethnicities and socio-economic levels. When we would pair off into groups and discussions would get intense, I would experience the fight or flight response. But having to stay forced me to remember that it is OK, we're all different. I had to learn how to keep an open mind, listen, learn and not be afraid to share who I was.
- Just seeing all the women in my cohort and the guest speakers was inspiration to get more involved politically at the local level. Carla, Jules and Melanie were also inspirations. Always thoughtful, involved, caring, self-aware and committed to excellence, I feel so lucky to have been touched by their political spirits! I feel like I have this group in my back pocket as I go forward with a new found sense of the political empowerment I now know I possess. Also, I am more likely to spend my charitable contribution dollars on political missions. In

fact, that is how I now spend my charitable dollars. I hope I can support the LiPPi organization western mass womens institute for political impact in significant ways in the future.

- Offering programs [as a trainer] to the 2011-2012 LIPPI Cohort reconfirmed my passion for working with women leaders.
- LIPPI has helped me to understand that women share a role and voice in how government and how businesses are run. I have been able to contribute my ideas in a positive manner in my work, but with what I feel is a woman's point of view. I feel better educated about the process, a stronger public speaker and that I am not alone in the feeling underqualified department.
- Knowing there are so many other women active in Western Massachusetts has made me conduct myself with more confidence - sharing information, being involved with the momentum - fuels the desire to continue on and make a difference wherever possible.
- I don't think I ever would have had the confidence to co-chair Finance Committee if it hadn't been for LIPPI. I was on a committee that wrote a grant proposal to build a new library in our community, and being a member of LIPPI helped give myself permission to WANT to chair that committee during the months of writing the grant proposal, knowing that I could do a good job in that capacity. We handed in the 21st draft of the proposal, and were one of 8 communities in the state awarded a grant to go forward with the project.
- LIPPI was part of a lot of education I did this past year and a half and definitely gave more confidence, by providing lots of knowledge in many areas.
- I met a lot of inspiring women, saw what they were doing and it helped me step into my own leadership abilities.
- I am more outspoken than I have ever been in my life. I should actually probably keep my yap shut! I am more involved in my city, heavily involved with connecting and sharing community information and spearheading another part of my business. I have launched an online magazine geared toward female entrepreneurs.
- I'm learning by doing! I am learning on the job as an elected official.
- I have returned to a corporate setting, and am playing out new leadership roles there. Given the economic situation, my timing was off in terms of my ability to leverage my corporate skills in a non-profit setting.
- I'm continuing my education and working towards my MBA, advancing my leadership.
- Taking the personal coach training is huge. LIPPI motivated to take this step for myself.

- I have developed better writing and speaking skills through my involvement in LIPPI. I do tend to pay better attention to the political arena and what is developing outside my own world.
- I am in a happy place. I am always learning and eating up every opportunity to work with my peers. I am also working with other professionals to educate others on politics and the importance of community involvement. I and others have met with the mayor to discuss issues facing the young professionals in this area. I am doing everything I can to get involved and stay involved.
- I have been promoted into a strategic executive role at work. One of the reasons for the promotion was my leadership ability.
- When I became chair of the library subcommittee, one of the members said, "How come you kept these talents hidden from us?!" LIPI helped me see my potential and not be afraid to pursue the leadership role, and even embrace being the chair .
- I'm not afraid to disagree with positions taken by other board members and have actually swayed the opinions of groups previously set on a course of action.
- I'm keeping putting one foot in front of the other! I'm hoping to get a paid position for the Obama campaign, and am busy building on-the-ground credentials. By volunteering for lots of things, the State organization knows me well and trusts me (and invites me to VIP events!)