



WELCOME TO POLARIS

March 2020

Dear Museum Professionals,

Congratulations on joining **POLARIS: The Museum Mentor Network**, a new nationwide online mentoring platform! Professionals working in or with museums across the sector can create meaningful collegial relationships, and develop their leadership skills by being mentored or mentoring others. POLARIS offers the opportunity for lifelong learning to professionals at all stages of their careers from students to retirees.

The bottom-line with POLARIS is that mentoring is important to the sustainability of museums. Recognizing the many benefits that strong mentoring provides, MLI@CGU in began working with [LeAD Labs](#) in 2016 to develop in-house peer mentoring program for our executive education programs. We have heard about the benefits of the mentorship not only from mentees, but mentors have also reported that their service was instrumental in deepening their own skills in empathy, leadership, and strategy.

Now it's your turn! On POLARIS, you will work collaboratively with partners on achieving career goals, while also helping to support lifelong learning, positive organizational change, and greater diversity and inclusion across the field. As an online mentor, your knowledge and wisdom could be the "North Star" that guides an emerging professional to a successful career. Or perhaps, as a mentee you are seeking support for your next step. Your collegial support can make a difference for the next generation of museum leaders.

Participating in POLARIS is free. Generous funding, in part, from the Institute of Museum and Library Services has ensured that MLI@CGU can provide this platform. The success of POLARIS, however, relies on the active participation and commitment of its subscribers. In this initial pilot phase, we are interested in hearing from you and want to learn more about your interests as this exciting new initiative unfolds. Please reach out and let us know how POLARIS can evolve to meet your needs.

START HERE: For an overview of how the Annual Mentoring Program on POLARIS works, access the [Welcome Packet](#), which includes the [POLARIS Mentoring Expectations and Guidelines](#) and [Mentoring Agreement and Worksheet](#), and information about the self-study modules. Our first program cycle runs from April to November 2020.

On behalf of the team at MLI@CGU and our partners at LeAD Labs, thank you again joining us on this endeavor! We are all inspired by your contributions to making museums better for communities across the nation.

Shine on!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toni Guglielmo".

Toni Guglielmo, PhD
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