



NATIONAL PARENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

2019 EVALUATION SUMMARY

"Our 3-year evaluation showed that NPLI is an effective leadership development initiative that leads to profound changes in parents' civic, personal, and family lives. These changes are the result of PLTI's intentional efforts to develop relationships across difference, to treat each parent with dignity, and to empower parents to lead through developing their civic knowledge and skills."

- Joanna Geller, NYU Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity

Parents, Policy & Partnerships

The Need

Today we live in a world where divides continue to grow. Despite diversity growing in our country, division across difference - whether it's a different race, culture, or political party- is also growing. People trust each other less, and trust the community institutions intended to protect and enhance the community less. Civic Engagement has decreased over the last 50 years. The gulf between decision makers and those impacted by decisions has often been vast, and that does not show signs of narrowing in many communities.

These separations are physically evident in our cities and neighborhoods, falling along race and class lines. And in an ever deepening political divide, where it's becoming difficult to nail down biases, we struggle to find truth and connect with each other in spaces where we do not agree. The fabric of democracy is becoming increasingly frayed, especially among those who have been historically disenfranchised, and failed due to institutional racism and social injustices. *How can we make necessary changes when we are not all sitting at the same decision-making table?*

Building Bridges

To strengthen democracy and to improve policies for children, families, schools, and communities, bridges need to be built across difference. We need to deepen our understanding of what is affecting each other's lives, to co-identify problems and co-create solutions. Decisions and policies that affect families should be made with the needs and inputs of families. But too often arenas do no intentionally prepare to welcome parents to the table. And, too often, parents don't feel prepared or ready to join the conversation.

What is NPLI?

The National Parent Leadership Institute increases the presence and power of parents and families at decision making tables and in community problem solving spaces by:

- Growing the leadership capacity of parents, through the Parent Leadership Training Institute; and
- Connecting parents to leadership and advocacy opportunities through local and national networks; and
- Partnering with local organizations and local government; *leading to*

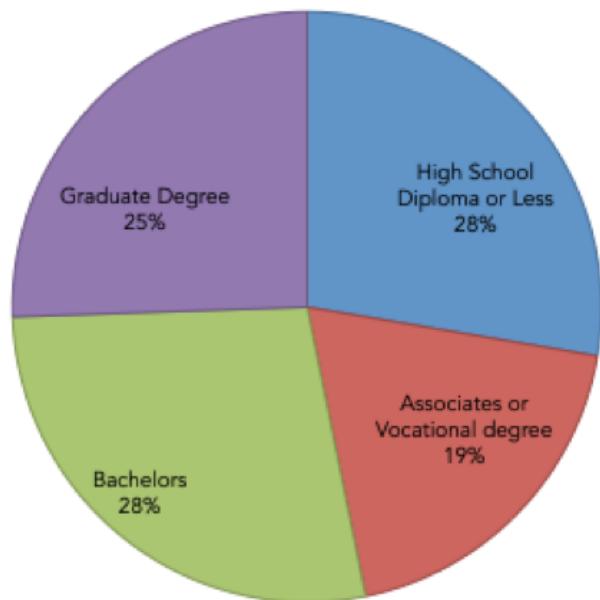
Statistically significant outcomes for graduates, immediately, and over time.

Our alumni continue to increase in their political and personal agency, as evidenced by our longitudinal outcomes.

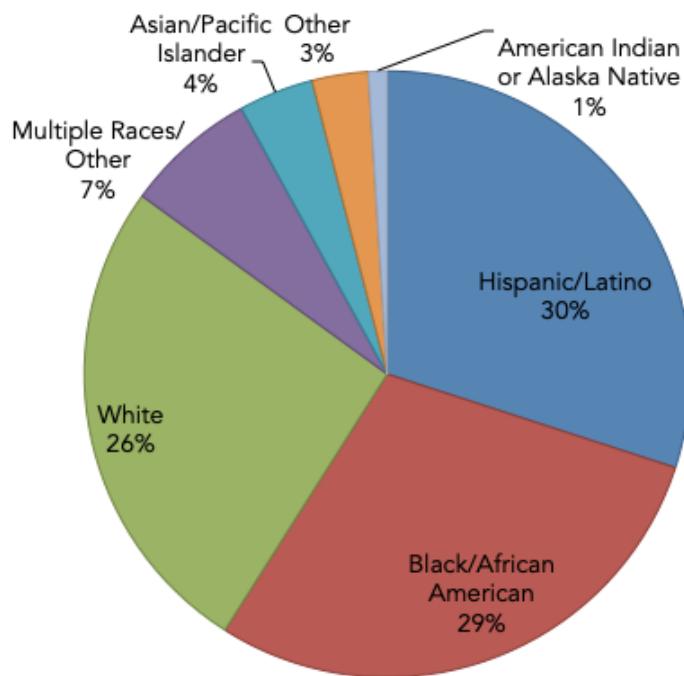
Who are NPLI Parent Leaders?

Each of the 62 PLTI communities from Hawaii to Massachusetts build local Parent Leadership Training Institutes, establishing intentionally diverse groups for their 20-week cohort training. This diversity is cultivated to reflect the demographics of the local context to the greatest extent possible—across race, ethnicity, country of origin, age, education, income, political partisanship, gender and sexual preference.

EDUCATION LEVEL



RACE



Parent Leaders tell us...

"After PLTI I am more open minded, [as] opposed to the tunnel vision that I used to have; I understand other people go through struggles, even those who don't look like me."

"Love. We have this whole other family with PLTI. When we see each other, we're excited, trying to find out what each other is doing. So, it's love. Each year it grows."

"I'm connected with people outside my circle now. My circle is bigger and it doesn't look just like me."

"Being in PLTI helped me better understand where others start and come from. The diverse class showed different circumstances and concerns from my own."

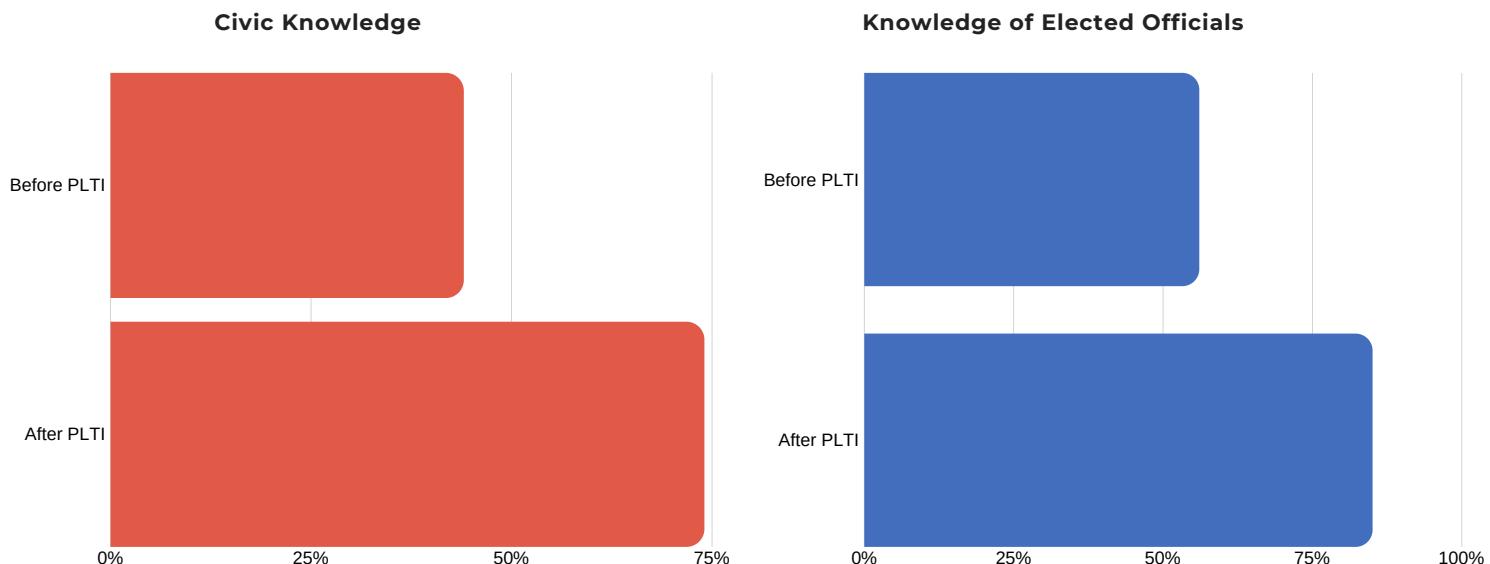
Growth in Civic Knowledge & Skills



Civic Knowledge consists of: considering alternative viewpoints, appreciating diversity, understanding the role of citizens in the political process and formation of public policy, monitoring and understanding current events, and thinking critically about political information.

Civic Skills include: Public speaking and personal communication skills, coalition- and community-building, organizing and advocating for change.

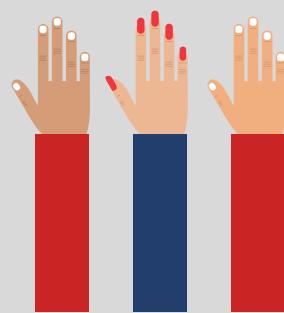
NPLI engages NYU's Metro Center in ongoing evaluation of parent leaders before their PLTI experience, after their PLTI experience, and longitudinally as alumni, measured through pre- and post-surveys, as well as through interviews.



"[PLTI] me ha cambiado mucho, primero que todo el descubrir de que mi voz cuenta ...el alcalde se sienta a escuchar mis quejas; yo en mis años de estar aquí nunca pensé como que yo odio hacer una cita con él e ir a hablar con él y que él se sentaba escucharme. Yo pensaba que esto era solamente para las personas que tienen puestos o cargos."

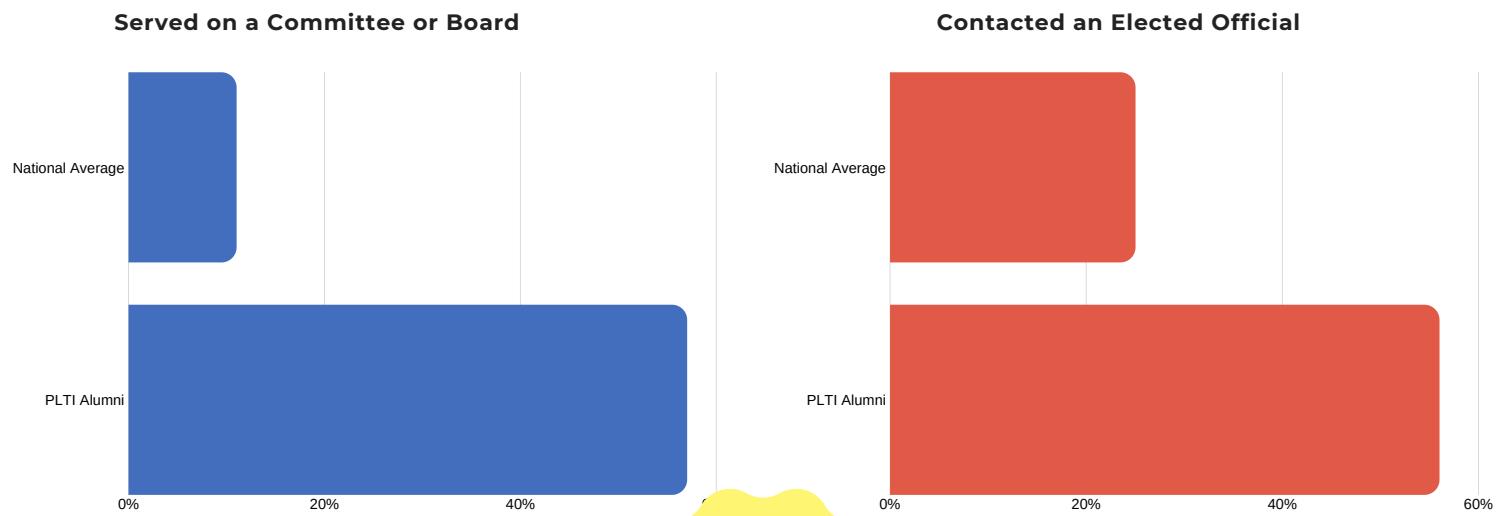
"[PLTI] has changed me a lot, first of all discovering that my voice counts...the mayor sits down to listen to my complaints. In my years of being here, I never thought that I could make an appointment with him and go talk to him and that he would sit and listen to me. I thought that this was only for people who have high positions or posts".

"I testified in front of the House Ways and Means Committee for WA last January. I have been asked by two different organizations to make a trip to DC for advocacy work on a national level."



Growth in Civic Action

PLTI parent leaders grew their leadership skills and civic knowledge to become more deeply engaged in their schools and communities. PLTI parents worked together to address issues in their neighborhoods, contributed to community initiatives, shaped school and family policies, joined and led school committees, met with elected officials, and ran for elected office.



31% of PLTI alumni across the U.S. have worked to register voters

"I have worked in engaging others of my community to do and to work in our community's schools."

"I am currently in discussion with my community library about creating opportunities for our neighbors to volunteer and mentor in."

"I work with a public defender in making brick and mortar businesses websites accessible for the blind community."

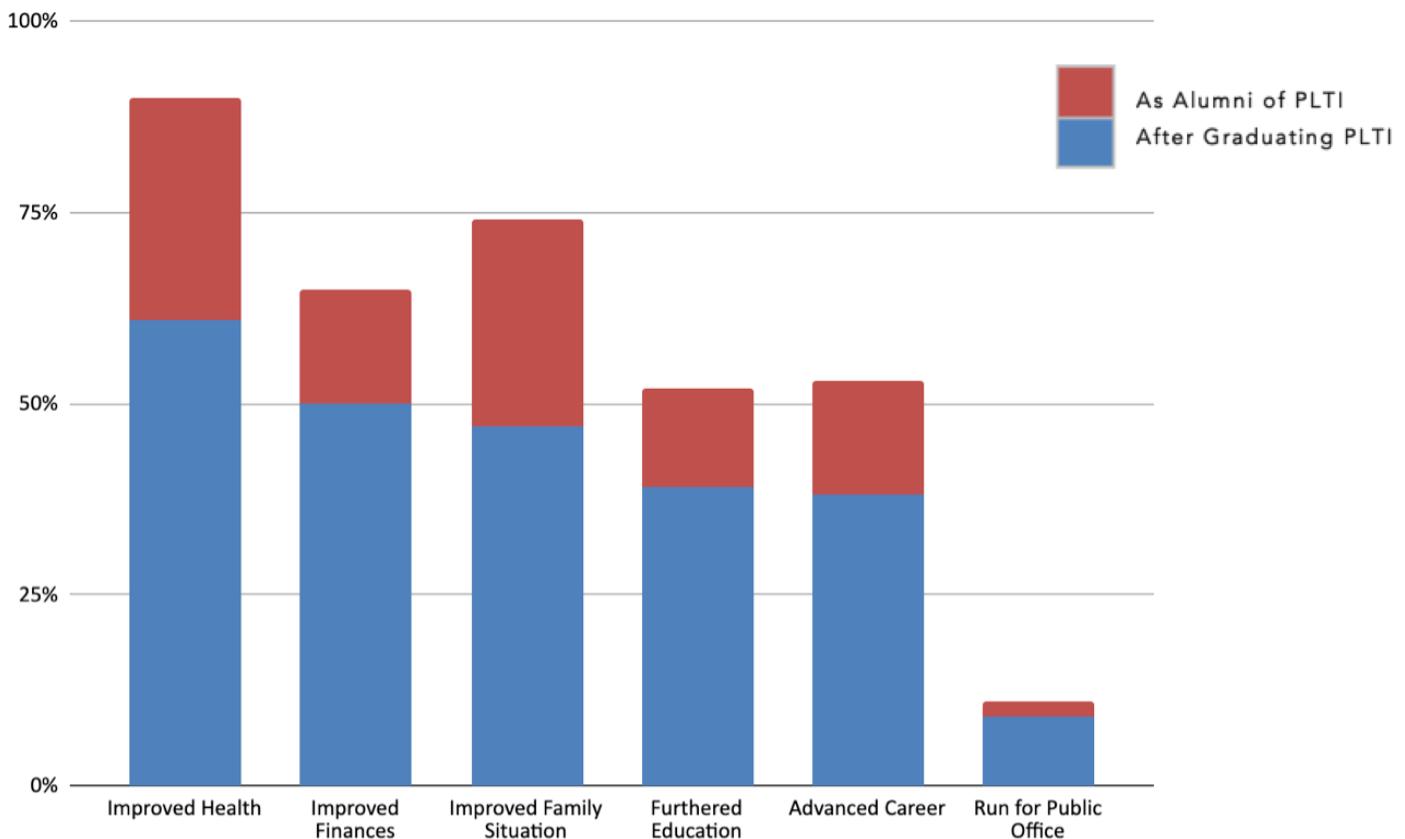
"Mainly focused on raising the profile of my neighborhood association and doing outreach to make it a more inclusive network. Working to save our local community center from further neglect."

"A number of our PLTI graduates over the years have become involved in the community. They sit on boards. They run for office. They're part of the city council. They're part of the Board of Ed, and that's what it's all about, you know? Leadership taking authority for your own issues."



Growth in Personal Leadership

The experience of the Parent Leadership Training Institute brings parent leaders into a community devoted toward making change. As parents gain civic leadership skills, they build new capacities within themselves that lead them to personal transformation. Through the experience of PLTI, they begin to make changes, and we see those changes continue for years after graduation from the cohort.



El impacto ha sido positivo hasta en mi familia, porque yo siempre he sido de las personas que me gusta superarme porque yo pienso que cuando hay educación hay mejor nivel de vida para uno mismo, si tú conoces qué leyes te soportan y qué es lo que a ti te va a ayudar, a tu familia le va a servir, porque no es que tu estés perdiendo el tiempo, no, estás ganando conocimientos para poder soportar a tu misma familia.

The impact has been positive even in my family, because I have always been someone who likes to improve myself, because I think that when there is education there is a better life for oneself. If you know what laws support you and what is going to help you, it will serve your family, because you are not wasting your time, no, you are gaining knowledge to support your family.

This document was created as part of a research partnership with the NYU Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity. Full report can be requested from the National Parent Leadership Institute.

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ParentsWhoLead.org



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