



Institute for Professional Excellence

The Executive Edge

Mastering Mental Toughness for Leadership Excellence

The skills that got you here aren't the ones that will make you successful now. Most leaders don't stall at the executive level for lack of intelligence or effort. They struggle because they never adjust how they operate.

Executive Edge, offered through Davenport University's Institute for Professional Excellence (IPEX), is built for new and rising executives ready to make that shift. Across three focused half-day sessions, you'll learn to see your organization from the balcony, let go of habits that no longer serve you, and master practical tools that sharpen how you think, decide, and respond under pressure. Then you'll apply it all through real cases, high-stakes conversation practice, and executive decision simulations.

You'll leave with a personal operating system, a 90-day application plan, and a clear answer to the question every executive must face: how do I need to show up differently?

After completing this program, participants will be able to:

- Distinguish the executive role from the managerial role
- Recognize common executive derailers and let go of behaviors that no longer serve you
- Lead from the balcony view
- Respond by design rather than by default
- Apply practical tools, including Control the Controllables, $E + R = O$, and Systems over Goals
- Manage your state, energy, and composure to protect decision quality under pressure
- Use coaching and style flexing to build team capability and organizational capacity
- Build a personal operating system and a 90-day plan to apply what you've learned

Learn more: davenport.edu/ipex/leadership | 616.233.2589

Executive Edge Topics

Day 1: The Executive Shift

The move into executive leadership isn't a bigger version of your last job. It's a different job entirely.

Day 1 builds clarity on how the executive role is fundamentally different, why strong leaders stall in the transition, and where you may still be operating like your old role. You'll confront the common derailers, identify what to let go of, and learn to lead from the balcony: seeing patterns, alignment, and consequences across the whole enterprise.

Day 2: Tools for Executive Effectiveness

At the executive level, success is less about what you know and more about how you think, respond, and focus your energy.

Day 2 equips you with a small set of tools you'll use repeatedly: Control the Controllables, the performance equation $E + R = O$, Systems over Goals, and practical self-management for high-pressure moments. You'll practice staying composed when stakes are high and discover how coaching builds the leverage that strong teams create.

Day 3: Application & Real-World Practice

Learning only matters if you can use it.

Day 3 is pure application: you'll bring a real challenge you're facing right now and run it through structured executive thinking. You'll make decisions with incomplete information, practice the high-stakes conversations most leaders avoid, and adapt your style to lead different people effectively. You'll leave with your own personal operating system and a focused 90-day plan to put it all into action.

Who Should Attend

Executive Edge is built for new and rising executives: recently promoted leaders, directors preparing for the next level, and experienced executives ready to break out of old operating habits. If you're expected to lead across functions and deliver results through others, this program is for you.

IPEX is an IACET Accredited Provider. IPEX offers IACET CEUs for its learning events that comply with the ANSI/IACET Continuing Education and Training Standard. You can earn 0.9 CEUs for successful completion of this program.

