LEADERSHIP CIRCLES
ACCELERATING LEARNING & GROWTH

ITA’s Leadership Circles provide an opportunity for senior leaders to exchange information and ideas, to work together to optimize best practices and find ways to accelerate growth and learning. By providing a selective, strategic and structured way for business leaders to engage with their peers, participants will become more capable, effective leaders.

ITA’s Leadership Circles provide participants with the opportunity to build productive, collaborative relationships with other senior leaders, expanding their network and creating a community that will last long after the program formally ends.

By presenting challenges and sharing solutions and ideas, each participant will advance their knowledge base and gain the confidence they need to contribute to their team and their organization in a bigger way.

DESIGNED FOR FUNCTIONAL LEADERS

While many well-known forums focus on the CEO or founder, ITA’s Leadership Circles have been built for the functional leaders at high-growth tech companies.

Many CEOs consider their forum experience to be the most significant thing they’ve done to improve job performance, something borne out in member surveys of those organizations. For example, Entrepreneur’s Organization (EO) members indicate that 70% of the value of EO is the forum experience. The goal of ITA’s Leadership Circles is to extend that benefit to the rest of the leadership team.

FOCUSED PEER-TO-PEER MENTORSHIP

Each Circle will be composed of 8 – 12 senior leaders. While specific title doesn’t matter, most participants hold Director or VP titles or have responsibility for a significant function within their organization. Facilitated by an executive coach, participants will meet in person once a month for four months.
Each participant will have the opportunity to do a “Deep Dive” on their top individual priorities with the group, generating new perspectives, uncovering alternative approaches and creating shorter paths to more effective results.

One of the downsides of many forum experiences is that there’s little follow-up – forums identify and explore the most urgent challenges at the time of the meeting. However, they lack the structured repetition required to rewire your brain.

ITA’s Leadership Circles are built to condense the learning timeframe and, by leveraging a professional coach, create structured follow-ups, reflection and next steps. Participants are also encouraged to share relevant content and ideas with each other throughout the experience, even when they aren't physically together.

**PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS**

Leadership Circle participants agree to:

- Be committed to the process – come prepared to all meetings, ready to discuss Deep Dive priorities and share best practices.
- Add value to the circle – provide knowledge, support, introductions that help each participant succeed while currently adding quality and value to the circle.

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**MEET THE COACH**

Sarah Wilcox

Sarah is a serial entrepreneur, business consultant and executive coach with an MBA from Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Business. She brings 30+ years of professional experience to bear in mentoring and coaching professionals as well as diverse tools and frameworks to help individuals find inspiring and satisfying careers.

Sarah believes that each of us has unique gifts and talents that we bring to our work and organizational cultures. Using those attributes and characteristics effectively is what makes leaders be their best and do their best.

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**GET STARTED**

We are currently accepting applications for our next Leadership Circles cohort. If you are a functional leader or an executive who would like to refer a high potential employee, please contact us at circles@illinoistech.org for more information.