The Changemakers Fellowship: Frequently Asked Questions

In March-May, 2027, Bringing Theory to Practice will launch the **Changemakers Fellowship**, an innovative opportunity for faculty, staff, and administrators to develop their goals and skills as academic changemakers.

What are the goals of the Fellowship?

The Fellowship is an alternative to executive leadership development programs. It has three goals: 1) to foster participants' goals and identity as changemakers; 2) to build capacity for effective, positive change in response to student and social needs and the challenges facing higher education; and 3) to connect participants with a larger community of changemakers across higher education.

Who is the Fellowship for?

The Fellowship welcomes 'midjourney' faculty, staff, and administrators in any institution, issue area, and positional role. It is meant for colleagues with prior experience in academic change-work who seek to grow their knowledge, capacity, and connections to a larger community of changemakers.

How will the Fellowship program be organized?

The Fellowship pilot will take place in March-May, 2027. (Exact dates will be announced by Thanksgiving, 2026.) It is organized around three two-week modules, each with a pair of two-hour Zoom gatherings. The first will focus on the identity of academic changemaker and explore participants' values and personal goals. The second will focus on the relationships, assets, and networks that support participants' change-work. The third will focus on effective strategies and practices for advancing change within institutions and across higher education.

Between the modules, four-week 'interstitials' will allow Fellows to develop personal projects and goals, to engage collaborators and networks, and to consult with coaches and other Fellows.

What work and time commitments are expected of Fellows?

Fellows will produce three deliverables: 1) a personal statement of goals and values; 2) an action plan for a project, whether at or beyond their home institution, to pursue after the Fellowship; and 3) an asset map of networks, relationships, and resources that can support the Fellow's project.

Fellows will be expected to actively engage in Zoom conversations and exercises during the modules and to use interstitials for project development and coaching and peer conversations. We estimate that the Fellowship will involve some thirty hours for meetings and preparatory work, in addition to time for project planning, personal statements, and network mapping.

What will the experience of the Fellowship be like?

The Fellowship will combine a strong experience of solidarity, shared values, and joy with time for individual development and reflection. Its mix of modules and interstitials is designed to provide changemakers both a space apart from everyday work and collective support for their aspirations.

What are the benefits of participation?

Participants will complete the Fellowship having created a personal statement of goals and values and an action plan for future change-work. Equally important, they will have built connections to other changemakers—in and out of the Fellowship program—and specific connections to networks that can advance their work. They will also be welcomed to join the BT2P changemakers network, a community of more than one hundred leaders and innovators advancing change at their institutions.

Who will staff and support the Fellowship and Fellows' work?

Bringing Theory to Practice staff will support the Fellowship. National experts and peer leaders from the BT2P changemakers network will help to lead the modules and provide project coaching.

What will it cost?

We will ask Fellows to contribute a nominal fee (no more than $100) as a 'co-pay' for participation. (Details to be announced by Thanksgiving, 2026.) We are committed to eliminating financial barriers to participation in the pilot and future iterations of the Fellowship.

What will happen after this pilot of the Fellowship?

Our aim is to learn from this inaugural offering and to secure the resources to expand and offer the Fellowship annually. Participants in the pilot will play a crucial role in making the Changemakers Fellowship as successful as possible.

How can I learn more about the Fellowship or consider applying?

To learn more about the Fellowship or consider participation, please fill out this brief Google Form or contact BT2P Director David Scobey (scobey@bttop.org). We will issue an application form in early November with a January 15, 2027 deadline. In the meantime, we welcome your questions.

Who developed the Changemakers Fellowship?

The Fellowship is a project of Bringing Theory to Practice, a national initiative advancing positive change in higher education on behalf of holistic, engaged education for all students. The Fellowship was developed by a working group of BT2P's changemakers network, including:

- Denise Bartell (Kent State University)
- Meredith Goldsmith (Ursinus College)
- Bob Kolvoord (James Madison University)
- Meg Konkel (Fordham University)
- Marisa Nickle (University of Washington)
- John Reiff (Civic Engagement Associates)
- Paul Schadewald (Bringing Theory to Practice)
- David Scobey (Bringing Theory to Practice)

You can learn more about Bringing Theory to Practice here and the changemakers network here.