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Women Administrators Learn Advancement Strategies at OWHE Leadership Forums

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The American Council on Education's Office of Women in Higher Education (OWHE) finished 2006 with two highly successful leadership development forums, which play a critical role in establishing networks of women and men committed to identifying talented women administrators and providing the support for their advancement.

The American Council on Education, the major coordinating body for all the nation's higher education institutions, seeks to provide leadership and a unifying voice on key higher education issues and to influence public policy through advocacy, research, and program initiatives. For more information, please see [About ACE](#).

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Thelma Thompson, president of University of Maryland-Eastern Shore, talks to forum participants about the importance of considering subgroups when dealing with multiple constituencies.

Fifty-eight women administrators from colleges and universities across the country traveled to ACE's office in Washington, DC and to Portland, ME in search of styles, strategies, and tools to help them advance in and prepare for executive leadership positions in higher administration.

Over the course of both three-day events, forum participants were introduced to a full spectrum of issues related to executive leadership in higher education, including managing multiple constituencies; personal issues; crisis management; and integrating strategic planning, budget allocations, and fundraising.

Participants also gained experience in the practical side of ascending the career ladder. Nancy Archer Martin, practice leader education/not-for-profit at J. Robert Scott, provided an in-depth session on career mapping, and executive search consultants handled résumé reviews, mock interviews, and the search process.

OWHE's national forums are designed for women administrators seeking a presidency, vice presidency, or deanship. Three new sessions were added to this year's national forum—held in Washington, DC Nov. 29-Dec. 2, 2006—including a session on blogging and another on managing athletic programs. The third new