What is ILI?
The Instructional Leadership Institute (ILI) is a 5-year pilot instructional leadership programme, established in 2016 by Ark, in partnership with the Relay Graduate School of Education. The programme empowers school leaders committed to transforming their school. The institute delivers instructional leadership training to Principals and aspiring non-Principal school leaders from public, low-cost private, and PPP schools. The programme's training methodology is based on international best practices from the Ark and Relay faculty and is tailored to the South African context, providing participants with the required knowledge and skills needed to drastically improve the quality of teaching and learning in their school.

Vision & Mission
Our vision is to transform the lives of disadvantaged students by ensuring they have access to world-class education. Our mission, over the course of the pilot, is to train and develop a network of 100 outstanding Instructional leaders, and establish an independent, accredited leadership entity led by a local Dean, enabling continuous support to the ILI network and the border education eco-system.

Impact
Improve educational outcomes for more than 50,000 primary and secondary school students from low-income background.

Who can apply to ILI?
The ILI programme is an instructional school leadership program designed for passionate, reflective and committed school leaders. The programme accepts candidates from public, low-fee private, and public-private partnership (PPP) schools to ensure that we have participants with a broad range of experiences in the cohort.

Course beneficiaries are:
- Current Principal leaders,
- Principal supervisors, and
- Aspiring non-Principal leaders (Deputy Principals, Heads of Education, Heads of departments, Teacher Leaders, and Instructional Coaches)

To be accepted into the programme, participants must apply for seats in the cohort by submitting the Participants Application Form and providing the required materials. Selected candidates must share our mission and vision for change - and must be committed to lead schools located in areas of high social and economic deprivation or serve students from low-income backgrounds.

What is the ILI Curriculum?
Participants focus on three key elements of leadership, while deepening their understanding and mastery of highest leverage instructional techniques and strategic planning.

Data Driven Instruction: Learn how to implement school-wide systems for collecting and analysing learner work to ensure that all learners meet rigorous learning expectations.

School Culture: Turn your beliefs and core values into daily practices that support an engaging learning environment in your school.

Website:
www.arkonline.org  www.ili.education
Observation and Feedback: Help your teachers grow to their full potential by building a schedule that supports frequent classroom observations and focused feedback meetings.

The curriculum is spiraled throughout the programme to give participants multiple opportunities to continuously hone and improve these skills. To maximise impact and to facilitate the sustainable integration of these instructional leadership principles into the systems and practices of the school, ILI gives priority to participants attending the programme in vertically aligned or ‘nested’ teams (supervisors, principals, and instructional team leaders).

What does the training programme entail?
Each cohort will undertake a two-year long program which is delivered while participants are currently employed within a school.

Training Boot Camp & Residentials: Leaders begin the training programme with a boot camp session in June which serves as introductory session to the course.

In-school Coaching & Mentoring: Following each residential, programme coaches (faculty) carry out diagnostic school observations within participants’ schools, working with course participants to design an action plan which guides the focus for the rest of the year. Throughout the programme the faculty also provide participants with continuous mentoring support.

Virtual Intersessions & Group Assignment: ILI conducts four virtual training sessions per year. The intersessions take place between residentials in February, July, September, and December. During the intersessions, participants revisit content presented during the residential, exchange their ideas and experiences of implementing new techniques in their schools, and share lessons learned with their peers. In between the training sessions, coaching, and virtual intersessions, participants work either in pairs or small groups to practice implementing the new techniques and methodologies they have learned.

Peer Learning & On-going Support: After the completion of the program, the faculty remains available for alumni support. The faculty will visit schools periodically to assess principals in action and to encourage smaller meetings of principals’ peer groups to meet and discuss curriculum and practice on an ongoing basis. Alumni will also be welcomed to return and facilitate sessions for the next cohort.

Is there a programme fee?
For the 2018 Cohort intake, places are fully funded for participants from government schools. Course costs are also waived for participants from PPP schools. However, donations from low-costs private schools are accepted and required. Donations received will cover all course materials, lodging expenses, meals and transport for participants from private schools. Ideally, costs would be borne by participants’ schools from the budget allocated for leadership and teacher development.

Please note that all Participants (including government schools) will be responsible for travel to and from the sessions.

Preliminary Dates
The programme for the 2018 Cohort will be held from June 2018 to June 2020. The preliminary course dates for the 2018 Cohort are as follows:

June 2018
4-15 June: Initial Observations (In participants’ schools)
23-25 June: TLAC Boot Camp (Cape Town & Johannesburg)

October 2018
3-6 October: 1st Residential Training (Johannesburg)
9-12 October: In-school coaching (In participants’ schools)

March/April 2019
27-30 March: 2nd Residential Training (Cape Town)
2-5 April: In-school coaching (In participants’ schools)

September/October 2019
25-28 September: 3rd Residential Training (Johannesburg)
1-4 October: In-school coaching (In participants’ schools)

April 2020
8-11 April: 4th Residential Training (Cape Town)
13-17 April: In-school coaching (In participants’ schools)

The final dates for the programme intersessions will be available in June 2018.

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