



Pretrial Innovation Leaders

What did you learn in the course that you have applied back home?

"PI-Lead helped tremendously with communicating the outcomes of our pretrial impact study, including developing infographics and paring down the findings so that results could be easily communicated to different audiences."

—Kristy Danford

"I learned the importance of understanding why I am drawn to this work. I also learned the importance of good one-on-one relationships in moving initiatives forward."

—Bert Winkler

"How to get your message out there and heard, how to begin to deal with push back when you've put yourself in that public forum, how to start looking at the picture as a whole and the challenges that face all our communities."

—Shannon Christy

What is PI-Lead?

PI-Lead is a training and exploration opportunity for the next generation of pretrial experts at the local, state, and national level. We talked policy, communications strategy, leadership skills, coalition building, and what it takes to become a resource to the field and fulfill on your own personal pretrial justice mission.

Several graduates in the inaugural class were from the Safety and Justice Challenge Network. Below are their reflections on being part of PI-Lead.

What did you do for your capstone project, and what impact has it had?

"We conducted an analysis of our pretrial services to understand opportunities for our program to enhance effectiveness – both internally and as part of a broader system."

—Rachael Nygaard

"I worked with key stakeholders to revise our local Decision Making Framework, and develop a Release Conditions Matrix, which assumes a presumption of release for defendants, and removes the secured bond or detention language from our Matrix."

—Jessica Ireland

Why did you decide to become a PI-Leader?

"As a local government leader in a jurisdiction where there is momentum and appetite for justice reform, I was looking for strategies for becoming a more effective advocate for pretrial justice efforts."

—Rachael Nygaard

"I was drawn to the Pi-Lead course because of the opportunity to interact with other pretrial leaders and advocates in the field. In addition, it was a unique opportunity to work on and develop my own leadership abilities."

—Jessica Ireland

Where will you go from here? What pretrial leadership advice do you have for others?

"California recently passed a bail reform law, and preventive detention is a component. I am determined to actively ensure it is the carefully limited exception."

—Aaron Johnson

"Making connections with people through PI-Lead who are all focused on the same goals but are coming from diverse fields with different areas of expertise and different roles within the system gives you a sense of community. That 'oh, this is my tribe' moment."

—Shannon Christy



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