

Family Enterprise Boards

Navigating unique governance challenges

BLENDING EXPERIENCE

Live virtual

Oct. 28, 2025

In-person

Nov. 3-7, 2025

Chicago Campus

\$13,000*

Family Enterprise Boards empowers current and future directors of family-controlled organizations to navigate the uniquely complex system of a family enterprise. Participants will learn to design, engage and lead family business boards to leverage the strategic advantages of their organizations.

Family Enterprise Boards focuses on the pivotal role of the director in effectively managing relationships with many stakeholders, including owners, management and families. Current and emerging family board members will learn to skillfully manage the strategic, fiduciary and communication functions of the board, while learning the nuances of orchestrating board committees.

The program includes interactive lectures with leading Kellogg faculty, live case studies, panels with experienced family and independent directors, and discussion of scenarios that are focused on the family enterprise context. Participants will emerge with an in-depth and well-rounded set of skills to effectively manage the essential functions to align the board's work with the values and long-term growth of family-owned organizations.

“The program is incredibly engaging and enlightening. The guest lectures provided beyond what most family businesses have available to them, and the opportunity to converse with other family businesses is invaluable.”

SHAREHOLDER, INTERNATIONAL DEHYDRATED FOODS, INC.

Key benefits

- Define the role of the board in understanding family business strategy
- Explore the differences in board decisions for a family enterprise
- Understand the unique challenges of selecting family and non-family directors
- Learn to effectively link the board with the family

Who should attend

- Current family and non-family board directors, trustees and chairs of family-controlled firms
- Family members developing themselves for future roles as board members in their enterprise
- Family and non-family executives who interact with or who will soon be appointed to the board

Please note: This program is limited to individuals with specific business experience. Before enrolling, you must receive approval from the Kellogg School of Management to participate. Please visit the program website for more information.

Groups of up to five participants from a family enterprise can be accommodated in each session. Requests for groups of more than five in a single session must be approved by the program's Academic Director. Please direct your inquiry to the John L. Ward Center for Family Enterprises at c-bath@kellogg.northwestern.edu.

Learn more and apply: kell.gg/kxfamboard

* Your program fee includes accommodations and meals during the in-person sessions and course materials. Dates and program fees are subject to change.

Program content

Gain insight into family enterprise boards

- Understand the differences between the governing boards of publicly traded companies and family-owned organizations
- Learn from independent directors experienced with family enterprise boards

Maximize board and family-leadership effectiveness

- Design and structure the board's size, roles, skills and architecture to best fit the needs of the family enterprise
- Effectively manage relationships between diverse stakeholders within the organization
- Explore the board's influence upon the governance structure, strategy and reputation of the family enterprise

Improve board decision-making

- Understand the group dynamics of the board and its influence on decision-making
- Comprehend the role of culture and family values in the family enterprise boardroom
- Equip yourself with a board-level strategic-thinking approach that accounts for consequences to both the business and the family

Understand and manage the board's human resources role with respect to:

- Compensation
- Recruitment and onboarding
- Performance assessment and feedback mechanisms
- Development of new directors
- Retirement policies
- Sustainability
- Risk management

The faculty

The faculty for this program knows firsthand the complexities a family faces in governing wisely. Leading experts in family business practice, seasoned advisors and directors of best-in-class family enterprises bring a rare depth of understanding and wisdom to your learning experience.

Matt Allen

Co-Academic Director; John L. Ward Clinical Professor in Family Enterprise and Executive Director of the John L. Ward Center for Family Enterprises

Jennifer Pendergast

Co-Academic Director; Adjunct Professor of the John L. Ward Center for Family Enterprises and Adjunct Professor of Kellogg Executive Education

Devin DeCiantis

Adjunct Lecturer in the John L. Ward Center for Family Enterprises

Timothy Feddersen

Wendell Hobbs Professor of Managerial Politics; Professor of Managerial; Economics & Decision Sciences; Chair of Personnel Committee

Ed Zajac

James F. Bere Professor of Management & Organizations

*Please note:
Faculty is subject to change.*



Your learning experience

When you join our dynamic blended programs, you'll be immersed in a rich learning environment that fosters personal growth. You'll be guided through a transformative experience with our world-renowned faculty and active engagement with your peers.

Learn more and apply:
kell.gg/kxfamboard

Consult with an Advisor:
execed@kellogg.northwestern.edu 847.467.6018