

## LEARNING PLAN

### 2026 Learning Objectives and Agenda

Intrapersonal Communication, Generational Differences, Best Practices in Turfgrass Operations, Mindset, Human Resource Policy and Implementation, Collaborative Communication, Farm Visit, Leadership, Planning and Running Meetings

- April 1-July 1 TBD - Program start, virtual learning and assignments
- August TBD - 2-day classroom training at the University of Northern Iowa Campus in Cedar Falls, IA
- October - European Turfgrass Producers, Placencia, Spain (optional)
- Monthly assignments and virtual meetings throughout 2026
- Guest speakers on Leadership, Human Resources, and other topics



### 2027-28 Learning Objectives and Agenda

Analyzing complex problems, effective project management, advanced public speaking, the power of words, building advocacy skills, leadership

- February 16-19 - TPI 2027 in Amelia Island, FL
- October TBD - 2-day Advocacy Trip to Washington DC
- Program completion and recognition at the TPI 2028 International Education Conference in Nashville, TN



**NICHOLE HARKEN, EdD**

*Greetings! I am very excited to serve as your teacher, guide, resource, and sounding board for the 2026-28 TPI Future Leaders Cohort. I am originally from East-Central Iowa and grew up on a family farm with dreams of being a teacher. I did not know at the time that I would absolutely fall in love with the study of communication and become a Professor!*

*I serve as the Director of Internships/Associate Professor of Instruction/Co-Coordinator, Cornerstone at the University of Northern Iowa. In my positions, I teach courses focused on leadership, group collaboration, speaking, writing, and research.*

*I am anxious to get started with all of you - to share what I know, collaborate, and work with guest speakers who will bring their own expertise to our group. My goal is for this program to be exciting, engaging, and entertaining so you can think more creatively, become more engaged in your industry, and increase your work productivity. Let's see what we can do, together!*