February 7, 2019

Brookings Executive Education
A Partnership of The Brookings Institution and Washington University in St. Louis

New BEE Course

Brookings Executive Education’s redesigned Enterprise Leadership course helps government managers and executives better empathize with employees at every level of their agency.

“Empathy requires attunement, an understanding of the needs and wants of other individuals, or what we call walking a mile in someone else’s shoes,” said Paul Paese, an adjunct lecturer at Washington University in St. Louis’ Olin Business School.

Paese; Andrew Knight, Olin’s associate professor of organizational behavior; and Rebecca Hollander-Blumoff, a professor of law at Washington University Law, teach the three-day class.

“Empathy isn’t simply seeing things from different viewpoints,” Knight said. “It’s feeling what other people are feeling and behaving compassionately. Empathy becomes even more important — and challenging — as workforces become more diverse.”

Consequently, successful enterprise leaders rely on empathy to lead across cultures, countries and functional areas. Empathy improves team building, group decision making, persuasion and negotiation. Class participants learn what empathy is, why it is important to their organization, how a lack of empathy undermines change leadership and other enterprise-wide initiatives, and empathy’s potential limitations.

Brookings Executive Education’s Enterprise Leadership course will be held April 2-4, 2019 at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. Learn more or register here.

THINK. LEARN. LEAD.

Throughout 2019, the Brookings Executive Education website will debut a series of thought papers from Brookings Executive Education experts. THINK. LEARN. LEAD. will cover a variety of topics related to leadership, management, strategy, and policy.

First up is Why Empathetic Leadership Matters by Paul Paese. Paese is the founder and president of Paese Management Consulting, an adjunct lecturer at Washington University in St.
Brookings Executive Education has exciting news: In summer 2019, Washington University in St. Louis’ Olin Business School will open new facilities on the Brookings Institution campus. The facilities — located directly across the street from the main Brookings building at 1776 Massachusetts Ave. NW — currently house several Brookings departments and Brookings Executive Education. This year, the eighth floor is being converted into dedicated classroom space for Brookings Executive Education courses.

The 11,135-square-foot space will include two state-of-the-art classrooms that can each accommodate up to 50 students.

“Our overarching objective was to create an environment that is highly conducive to both learning and comfort,” said Isabel Ahmann, principal of Ahmann Architectural Services and chief architect for the project. “It is enormously gratifying to work with a group that puts its customers — in this case, students — first.”

The design of the space represents the ideals of Robert S. Brookings, founder of the research institution that bears his name and “re-founder” of Washington University. The design incorporates elements of the campus in St. Louis that he established and has sweeping views of his most famous legacy, The Brookings Institution.

In 1924, the businessman, philanthropist and benefactor established the Robert S. Brookings Graduate School (as part of the research organization) to “teach the art of handling problems rather than to impart accumulated knowledge (and) to turn out craftsmen who can make contributions to an intelligent direction of social change.” The new BEE facilities advance Robert S. Brookings’ goal.
The facilities also will include breakout rooms, informal gathering areas and more. We are excited for the opportunities that this space will afford to BEE and its students.

On the Horizon

- Politics and Policymaking, March 11-12, 2019
- Maximizing Human Capital, April 10-11, 2019
- Creating High-Performance Teams, April 15-16, 2019
- Visioning and Leading Change, May 13-14, 2019

Let us hear from you.

We welcome comments about our newsletter and would like to know what additional information the BEE community would like to receive. Please send your input to Katie Hood at registrar@brookings.edu.

Thank you!

Find us on Twitter!

The BEE team is regularly posting news and information on Twitter. Stay current with the BEE community at https://twitter.com/BrookingsExecEd.