

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE

EDGE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

For Details on EDGE, go to www.pghtech.org.



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The EDGE program provided me with essential tools to become a better leader—self-insight and a coaching map to grow my team members. The support from our coach, the PTC team, and my fellow cohort members have provided me a lasting foundation for future success.

~ Jennifer Magaro, PMP, Vice President, Highmark Health, 2017 Cohort



Soul-cleansing, validating, and empowering. The EDGE program forces you to do introspective work on all areas of your life, not just your professional skills and challenges. Participants are encouraged to bring their full authentic-selves, and in my experience Christy Uffelman, created the space to allow this vulnerability. She is genuine, raw and has a deep passion for helping others — her coaching style creates real connections between participants and those connections are the real value of the EDGE program.

~ Darah Kirstein, Asset Servicing & Digital Strategic Planning Lead, BNY Mellon, 2020 Cohort



The PTC Edge program has been a great experience. When I entered PTC Edge, I expected it to be a traditional women's leadership and development program. However, I discovered a safe place to develop meaningful personal and professional connections. This program teaches every woman to tap into their inner self and learn how to become a more effective leader personally and professionally. I never realized that I was a somewhat introverted person in the workplace until participating in the program. I now have the confidence to step out of my comfort zone and do things I would typically never do, such as talk to people I do not know and share my journey as a woman of color. I now understand my power and strength and have the confidence to own my ideas. I've also learned how to network more effectively with both women and men from a variety of industries. The experience has been truly transformative. Thanks to PTC Edge, I'm no longer afraid to ask for what I want.

~ Keisha Pendleton, MBA, Project Manager, IES Communications, 2017 Cohort



I appreciate that EDGE has provided the opportunity to step away from my role and think about leadership, career and network. The talented people I have met in EDGE have had a strong impact in my personal and professional life.

~ Becky Jacoby, Director, Talent Mgmt./Org. Effectiveness, Eaton, 2018 Cohort



Before EDGE I felt that I was stuck in my career/life and not sure which path to take. I always wanted to discover something more but never knew what "it" was. I quickly realized that I am not alone, and many other women feel this way. Through this experience, I was given an opportunity to focus on myself and discover my personal passions outside of the working environment. I have built a great network and had the privilege to create bonds with a group of fabulous powerhouse women. I feel empowered, refreshed, and grateful for this experience, and how it has strengthened my confidence in both my personal and professional life.

~ Amy DePonte, Talent Manager, Vitro, 2018 Cohort



I am a more effective and empowered leader because of the EDGE program. The collective power of this group of women creates great opportunities for impact and growth.

~ Lisa J. Perry, MPM, E.D., Executive Director, Jeremiah's Place, 2017 Cohort



Before entering the program, I'd lost confidence in myself as a leader and couldn't see any path of resurrection for myself or my business. I was literally stuck. When I first came to EDGE I thought I would get 1 or 2 nuggets of wisdom and maybe network with some professionals. What I got instead was so much more. What I got was a group of women who genuinely want to see me grow, a new of strategic positioning and a new confidence in myself. EDGE is so much more than a leadership course, it's what I needed to succeed.

~ Meesha Gerhart, Founder & CEO, RedTree Web Design, 2018 Cohort



EDGE is about contributing and establishing your network to increase your knowledge and skills from other leaders in the community. The valuable qualities of experience, confidence, positive attitude, friendship, judgement free zone has allowed me to see the experiences in my personal and professional life I should be proud of. I am grateful for this network of thinking partners that are here to support me with my breakthrough on my next life chapter.

~ Shannon Bollig, Director of Solution Management Operations, Allscripts, 2019 Cohort



My experience with the EDGE Program has been nothing short of life-changing. Despite living it for many years, I've learned just how much our personal and professional lives intersect and affect everything we do. I'm confident I now have the tools to navigate my career and life journey as a mom and wife, so I can be the best version of me. Working alongside other professional women with such diverse backgrounds has been the greatest benefit. For one, I've expanded my professional network while making lifelong friends. Perhaps more importantly, before EDGE, I never realized just how much I had compartmentalized my life and my experiences. With encouragement and guidance from my cohort members and our coach Christy Uffleman, I've found the courage to dig deep. In doing so, I've uncovered unconscious biases and other habits that were holding me back. I'll be forever grateful for this experience and encourage other mid-career women to take the chance on this program. You never know how much room you have to grow until you look deep inside yourself.

~ Hollie Geitner, Director of Communications, Duquesne Light Company, 2019 Cohort



I applied to EDGE with the goal of gaining confidence at work and building my professional network. This program has helped me to not only accomplish both of those goals, but I've learned and gained so much more than that. I've met other professional women who've shown me that we really do thrive when we lift each other up. I've learned that I am enough and that I can do amazing things when I remember that. And I've not only built a strong network within the Pittsburgh tech community, but I've also developed friendships that will last beyond these 9 months. Christy Uffelman has masterfully crafted EDGE to show us how our personal and professional lives survive and succeed when we understand who we really are and why we do what we do. I will always be grateful for this amazing program!"

~ Kayla Druga, PHR, VP, Organizational Dev. and Marketing, Tailor on Tap, 2019 Cohort



Sharing our vulnerabilities instead of simply sharing our successes, helped to create an openness that I have yet to experience anywhere else. Attending the EDGE retreat did not simply expand my network and leadership skills, it facilitated meaningful, valuable connections that will last a lifetime.

~ Ingrid Cook, Founder, SHzoom, 2018 Summer



I expected the EDGE program to be a memorable leadership development and professional networking opportunity. I did not expect EDGE to help me refocus and align my values with my professional and personal goals. Through sharing both my vulnerabilities and successes with my EDGE sisters, I have been able to broaden my involvement in the Pittsburgh region, advocate for myself more successfully at work, and navigate career challenges and opportunities with heart and with sophistication. The impact EDGE has had on me personally and my team at work has been undeniably positive. I am so grateful to have had this experience.

~ Connie Deighan Eaton, PMP, Account Technology Strategist, Microsoft, 2019 Cohort



The EDGE Women's Leadership Retreat was a truly transformational experience! I went in expecting to learn something new and grow as a leader. What I didn't expect was to face my inner critic, silence her voice, and rise like a phoenix. I left with renewed focus, confidence, and permission to focus on me. I realized when I take the time to focus on me only then I can walk in my power and accomplish my goals and dreams. If you are looking for executive and peer coaching to help you get to that next level, this program is for you.

~ Stephanie Rideau, Director, Business Ops & Dev., Comcast Business, 2018 Summer



I have taken many leadership trainings and given several leadership workshops myself. A lot of these trainings focus on working with your strengths to become a better leader. Through Edge I was shown how to leverage my vulnerabilities to become a well-rounded one. I was also able to experience firsthand the importance of prioritizing myself and allow me the chance to slow down and think strategically about my own success.

~ Neysha Arcelay, Founder & CEO, Precixa, 2018 Summer



The biggest [EDGE] takeaway for me was to be able to see other women at various stages in their careers expressing similar fears and “inner critics” as my own. It made me realize there will not be a moment in my life where I “arrive,” and those fears disappear. Instead, I’ve already started putting tools and plans in place to work past those fears and achieve my goals. It feels like something was just unlocked for me and suddenly my vision feels clearer.

~ Natalie Prunty, Manager, Marketing & Sales, Flexible, 2018 Summer



The EDGE Retreat was exactly what I needed, but did not know. Through the positive affirmations and coaching by Christy, to the supportive and affirming environment created by the other women, I left feeling renewed and with a sense of clarity I had not had before concerning my career mobility and expansion. To any woman who feels she needs SOMETHING, anything, to push her forward, EDGE is the place to be.

~Victoria Snyder, M.ED. MSLPA, Founder, Self-Care Seniorita, 2020 Summer



Building your confidence, network and leadership skills are crucial to establishing a strong foundation for achieving professional and personal goals. Regardless of whether you are launching your career, launching into a new role or industry, or launching your own business, these skills are essential. The EDGE program/retreat was a transformational experience for me, I was very impressed by the high caliber of the discussion and learning. The network and confidence I formed at EDGE remain strong to this day. I continue to benefit from this program and would strongly recommend this to others.

~ Margaret Schmitt, Chief of Staff to the CEO, ANSYS, Inc., 2017 Summer



The retreat with EDGE was a great experience for me. It was the beginning of my transformation for this year. It gave me some knowledge about myself and skills to put into practice at different situations. The big take away was to give myself self-care and permission to do things that I enjoy. I often give my family, work, and extracurricular activities a priority over my alone time. The EDGE program was good wake up call to give myself the time to reflect and make immediate changes to my everyday life.

~ Diana Bellini, VP, Senior Relationship Strategist, PNC, 2017 Summer



The Edge retreat was truly the kickstart I needed to reset my frame of mind and therefore my career path. Christy Uffelman immediately made the attendees feel like lifelong friends and we walked away a trusted network and each other's advocates. Any woman looking for a new perspective and practical career tools should attend the Edge retreat.

~ Mary Moore, Director, Product Pipeline Innovation, SAE International, 2017 Summer



When I attended the EDGE Women's Leadership retreat, I thought I'd be in for a fun networking experience with other mid-career women. It was that, but it was also so much more. The retreat's focused exercises and discussions helped me cut through all the noise in my life to really zero in on what I wanted next out of my career. I walked away with an action plan to take the first steps toward my next big thing - which unfolded just weeks later!

~ Amy Super, User Experience Researcher and Designer, Honeywell, 2018 Summer



I was afforded the opportunity to attend the 2018 EDGE Retreat through my company SDLC Partners, L.P. and was expecting this training to be like others I have attended in the past...filled with Power Points and workbooks. Much to my surprise, the room was filled with dynamic conversation, fun activities, and powerful stories relevant to where I am in my career. Little did I know; this retreat would provide life skills that I continue to use and practice both professionally and personally over a year later. If you are considering the EDGE program, my advice is to DO IT! You won't regret it.

~ Alisa Bigelow, Senior Manager, Marketing, SDLC Partners, L.P., 2018 Summer



The EDGE program provided me with the tools to identify what's important to me in my career and find harmony with the life I want to lead. Christy Uffelman's coaching brings out the best in each of us and teaches us how to do the same for others. I feel more confident and ready to take on new opportunities due to Christy's influence and the talented women I've connected with through the program. My network of EDGE sisters has been incredibly supportive of me, both professionally and personally, with challenges during the pandemic. I'm incredibly thankful to have gone through this program and the lasting impact it has had on my life.

~ Teresa Shine, Delivery Manager, Software Engineering, Seegrid, 2019 Cohort



I have attended numerous leadership trainings around the nation and in parts of the world and am currently finishing a doctorate in Organizational Leadership. The EDGE program has acted as a capstone by providing key coaching elements that has strategically empowered me to better understand how to move forward boldly beyond the standard, and not be afraid of the light that is within me, as playing small will not serve the world. The EDGE program has sharpened my sword, built a stronger foundation of confidence, and has provided me with an industrial sisterhood of lasting relationships.

~ Gia R. Tatone, MS, ABD, Instructor, Robert Morris University, 2018 Summer



The EDGE retreat was an eye-opening experience for me, both professionally and personally. It helped to provide me with insights into myself to directly improve my professional performance. EDGE gives you the tools you need to take yourself and your career to the next level. I highly recommend this program to any woman in a leadership role or looking to move into a leadership role.

~ Kristi Anne Gedid, Senior Director, Global Legal Operations, Mylan, 2018 Summer & 2019 Cohort



For me, EDGE was a mix of professional development and group therapy and helped me realize that I am not alone in my insecurities and self-doubt, and despite my feelings I can still be successful in my career. The other ladies in the cohort were an inspiration and we all learned from each other.

~ Monica Takacs, Senior Director for Industry Networks, Pittsburgh Technology Council, 2017 Cohort



Prior to EDGE I had not participated in any type of Leadership Development courses outside of my organization. I was feeling stagnant, frustrated in my existing role and having a lot of difficulty seeing myself let alone seeing myself as a leader. I imagined that EDGE would be an opportunity to expand my professional network and develop leadership skills. What I'll be leaving EDGE with is a redefined vision, glowing confidence in myself as a leader and an incredible, compassionate, talented group of women with whom I will be connected to through friendship long after our nine-month program is up. We are stronger together. We are at our brightest when we help each other shine. Christy Uffleman and the Pittsburgh Technology council has crafted an experience which has certainly changed my life and helped me rediscover myself to help me view myself as an empowered leader.

~ Danielle Gais Kwiatkowski, Customer Success Account Manager, Industrial Scientific, 2019 Cohort



Through RedChairPGH, I had the privilege of attending the EDGE Retreat at Nemacolin as a scholarship recipient. I had graduated with my Masters two weeks before the retreat, and was still uncertain if I was personally and professionally prepared to take the next steps in my career. Despite being one of the younger attendees, I immediately felt a sense of belonging thanks to the EDGE facilitators and other women at the retreat. No matter the background, position or goals each person possessed, we were all connected through our mission to inspire and support one another. EDGE gave me the push I needed to tell myself "I can, and I will!" I am so excited for others to experience the same personal and professional growth I did. Go find your EDGE!

~ Anna Marodi, Manager, Revenue Cycle, Application Management, UPMC, 2019 Summer



Before entering the EDGE program I'd come to a crossroad and completely changed careers. After I made the shift I was uncertain of my future and began to feel stuck, again. The EDGE program became an amazing opportunity for me to focus on my strengths and was a safe space to do the inner work to become a better version of myself. My time with my cohorts developed my skills and challenged me to get clear. Our Facilitator created an environment for us to thrive personally and professionally. Coming from various backgrounds and experiences enhanced my growth in the program. I gained an amazing network through EDGE. I am no longer stuck, my outlook is clear and after another career shift I am thriving professionally.

~ Latifa Miller, Special Project Officer, Lash Group, 2018 Cohort



What I found in EDGE is a phenomenal, diverse group of women from every imaginable industry and background, and with whom I've shared deeply personal life experiences and events, professional successes and difficulties. Together we're learning to navigate the challenges of putting ourselves out there, leading, coaching and mentoring, and pursuing our personal visions of success. And we're helping each other every step of the way, which is incredible to me. Since January, I've written a compelling and memorable elevator pitch, and refined my personal bio. I'm learning more about coaching, how to coach others and how to accept coaching. This meant asking for help - which I can now do without getting that nervous, anxious feeling. We share inspiring books, podcasts and articles, ideas about non-profits and leadership. We make an effort to meet up at various networking events across the city. I've learned something from each one of these women. I'm growing, professionally and personally, and I'm putting my EDGE experiences into practice every day."

~ Claire Chiasson-Tyler, Vice President, VP, Risk & Governance, DevOps and Testing COE, PNC, 2019 Cohort



Life changing! I attended the EDGE Women's Leadership hosted by the Pittsburgh Technology Council and walked out of those doors with a completely new perspective, an action plan, and a Tribe of amazing women. I highly recommend this program. For entrepreneurs or women working in companies, I believe the retreat focus to shift perspective, build confidence and change paradigms offers value for women in any industry and career level.

~ Rebecca Gilbert, MBA, Founder, Yummy Plants, 2020 Summer



"Within the first few hours of our time together, I was surprised how we connected through similar struggles and challenges and began using them for good as we designed our individual development plans. Not only did we create a strategic network of women, we built a personal bond as sisters in the workforce who will continue to support and encourage one on our future career journeys. In addition, I experienced how helping others grow and contributing to their professional success in a personal way is the key to becoming a great leader. This experience reminded me life is all about sowing and reaping. If we are not careful, it is easy to listen to the negative voices in our head and allow our mindset to align in the wrong direction. Making an active decision to have a positive attitude will lead to positive communication. Pouring into and sowing good seeds into others professionally during the retreat resulted in reaping more than I ever expected: confidence, influential coaching/leadership skills and stronger organizational savvy. "

~ Leslie Staron, Lead Recruiter, Technology Services Group, BNY Mellon, 2020 Summer