

## **A Report on U21 Global Leadership Program**

With the onset of the COVID 19 pandemic in the year 2020 and the restriction in mobility, the U21 initiated many online/virtual events, including meetings, competitions and training programs for faculty, staff and students of its member universities. Earlier this year the U21 Presidents, meeting together, spoke about the staff, who made exceptionally positive leadership contributions during the COVID-19 crisis, acknowledging the assistance they have given to their universities during these difficult times. The U21 Global Leadership Program is a part-time professional development course designed to recognise new emerging leaders across the network, and to give them internationally-focused skills and a global perspective to further develop their leadership capacities and help guide their universities through the pandemic and beyond. The course is being developed in partnership with Common Purpose, a well-respected training group which has collaborated with a number of U21 universities in the past.

At a time of rapid change and uncertainty for global higher education, the U21 global leadership programme brings together university leaders from institutions across the world. The programme aims to develop the leadership skills, tools and networks university leaders need to adapt and thrive in their respective universities in the future. The course has been run twice (November 2020 and March 2021) for a three-week period. Over three weeks, participants worked with interactive content at their own pace, and also joined synchronous, real-time discussions with international colleagues and leadership experts. The course had a strong international flavour. Staff members who attended and completed the course received a U21 micro-credential for their CV/résumé /continuous professional development portfolio.

The participants from the University of Delhi provided very positive feedback. Their main objective of attending the program was to interact with and learn from colleagues and counterparts from other universities around the world about experiences and best practices in handling uncertain situations like COVID 19 pandemic and for best leadership practices. The main take away for the participants from the course were important characteristics of leaders like:

- Cultural Intelligence
- Communication
- Adaptation
- Resilience

The participants felt that the learning from the course would be very useful in their current role as administrators and as teaching faculty. All the participants felt vehemently that they would recommend this program to their colleagues because it provided a platform to connect with people from across the globe and working at different levels. It helped them to understand that along with different problems, universities are facing many common issues too which can be solved using a collaborative approach.