Long before the Academy of Program and Project Leadership put a name to it, the concept of Leaders as Teachers & Mentors was part of NASA’s culture: NASA personnel with project expertise, from sub-assembly team members to the Agency Administrator, have been asked to share their knowledge with fellow practitioners, and the culture at NASA has encouraged them to support those requests. In this era of performance accountability, NASA depends more than ever on the willingness of NASA practitioners to support other practitioners.

Leaders as Teachers & Mentors supports the traditional willingness of NASA personnel to assist their fellow practitioners by recording their efforts so that they can be formally acknowledged. In this program, APPL tracks who has been asked to teach courses, write papers, give presentations, mentor project teams, or assist in other knowledge-sharing efforts. In addition to rewarding contributions, the program is a tool for managing the scope of the participation, so the same people are not asked to contribute all the time.

If a project manager wants to teach only one day a year, the program will ensure that he or she is not asked to teach more often. By ensuring that no one is called upon to do vastly more than his or her share, Leaders as Teachers & Mentors distributes the teaching burden. The APPL tracks who has been asked to teach courses, write papers, give presentations, mentor project teams, or assist in other knowledge-sharing efforts.

Agency gets the benefit of its entire knowledge base, because sources of expertise are less likely to be overlooked.

But Leaders as Teachers & Mentors is not just for established events such as courses, conferences, or reviews. It also provides an expert database of NASA practitioners at all levels who have made themselves available for consultation in their areas of expertise. It enables NASA personnel at any level who require assistance on a particular competency to reach beyond their immediate circle of colleagues to practitioners throughout the Agency.

**BENEFITS OF THIS PROGRAM INCLUDE:**

> Providing an avenue for Agency-wide knowledge sharing in support of the “one NASA” vision.

> Formally recognizing the volunteer contributions of experienced NASA practitioners and the continuing contributions of retired NASA project managers.

> Ensuring that knowledge-sharing activities tap the spectrum of available expertise, without burdening participants.

To learn more about Knowledge Sharing and other APPL services, find contact information at www.appl.nasa.gov.