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# Journal of Financial Planning®

April 2025 | Vol. 38 | No. 4 | fpajournal.org

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**FPA NexGen  
Gathering 2025**

August 26-28

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Virtual Study Group**

April 23, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. MT

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# Embrace Leadership Early in Your Career

**FOR NEXT-GEN PLANNERS**, the path to success goes beyond mastering technical skills—it's about developing leadership abilities to propel your career forward. Early in your career, leadership may not come with a formal title. At its core, leadership is your capacity to influence and support others. Whether you're leading clients, collaborating with your team, or guiding the next generation of planners, it's crucial to cultivate these skills early.

Taking initiative is one of the most effective ways to grow as a leader. Seek volunteer opportunities, offer to be a mentor, and look for ways to contribute outside of your day-to-day responsibilities. Leadership is about maintaining a high standard, being a role model, and helping others achieve their goals.

It's important to remember that leadership involves a relentless commitment to continuous learning. Take feedback from colleagues and clients to heart and actively seek out opportunities to grow—whether that's through additional certifications, joining professional organizations, or simply staying informed about industry trends.

FPA NexGen communities in your chapters offer various volunteer opportunities to become involved. Sometimes these can be overlooked chances to build the foundation of your leadership skill set. Start small, but don't be afraid to dive into the NexGen communities because you never know what doors may open.

The earlier you step into leadership, the faster you'll develop the confidence and skills needed to succeed in this profession. Take the first step today—because leadership doesn't have to wait.

**Patrick Marcinko, CFP®**

2025 FPA NexGen Student Engagement Co-Coordinator