The i3 Project 2INSPIRE (P2I) Family, School and Community Engagement Program has a strong family leadership component to facilitate the development of parent leaders at the school and district level. These school leaders are graduates of the P2I Mastery and Expert Levels and have over 108 hours of working with the parent specialist assigned to their school. The main goal of the Advanced Leadership program is increasing the sense of efficacy and confidence of the parents enrolled in the program. This enhances their ability to be active in the school community and in leadership roles and to work collaboratively with the school community. Another goal is to strengthen respectful relationships formed among diverse background families, school leaders, teachers and others in the school community for improving student academic achievement.

The primary outcome of the advanced leadership program is the continued engagement of parent leaders who work with school leaders and other school personnel to maintain and sustain the family engagement program over time. The results of the i3 P2I program indicate that once family members develop their skills as school leaders they take on decision-making roles and work alongside the principal to engage future parents at the school. They also continue to build their own leadership capacity as well as that of other parents at the school. Their participation has brought a rich new asset to the school because they know their school and the needs of other parents and they work together to meet those needs.

According to Redding, Langdon, Meyer, and Sheley (2004) it is the cumulative effect of purposeful, regular, and timely interactions between teachers and families that creates a “greater reservoir of trust and respect, increased social capital for children (and their families), and a school community more supportive of each child’s school success.

P2I staff developed the Advanced Leadership sessions with topics that include:

1. Community Learning Theory and the Unity Principle (CLT)
2. Fostering Relationships and conflict resolution
3. Using technology in our work with parents
4. Advanced leadership skills
5. School policies and roles school leaders
6. Leadership and decision-making in schools
7. Planning events, meetings and other school activities
8. Understanding the P2I Family Engagement School Action Team process and the role of parents as part of the team.