Special Olympics Unified Leadership Academy
An award-winning professional development program that grows effective, transformational and resilient leaders with a special focus on inclusive leadership capabilities essential to the mission of Special Olympics. The Academy provides a unique environment where Special Olympics leaders and athletes practice inclusive skills as they learn from world’s leading talent development providers.

- 365 participants
- 107 countries
- 17 cohorts

$4.1m new resources
262 new partnerships
27 promotions
40,000 new athletes

I find myself continually referencing the athlete leaders that I met. I’ve never had the opportunity to train alongside athlete peers before this opportunity. It was such an important and transformative part of my Academy experience.

- Katie Botha, Vice President, Development & Communications, Special Olympics Virginia USA

Billboards in 100 locations in Poland’s 12 biggest cities reached 5 million people

5-year partnership agreement with Coca-Cola in Russia

Dental healthcare made accessible for people with ID in India and Bangladesh

Activation of Unified sports in Cuba with Ministry of Education and UNICEF

The Leadership Academy opened my mind to understand leadership which I used to think was far away from me. My team members and Special Olympics staff helped me realize where I need improve and where I could do even better. As a leader, I need to be more actively taking on responsibility, not just following others.

- XU Chuang
Athlete leader, China