

PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS



GEORGE W. BUSH
INSTITUTE



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Enhancing the leadership impact of selected high performing mid-career professionals who share a desire to create positive change in their communities and across the nation, in partnership with the presidential centers of William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson.

BACKGROUND

The George W. Bush Institute created this executive-style program that takes Scholars to each participating Presidential Center to study and put into practice varying leadership approaches. Scholars learn from the former presidents, key administration officials, and leading academics. They further hone their leadership abilities through interactions with a vibrant network of peers, faculty and others who can help them make a greater impact in their communities.

At each Presidential Center, sessions focus on a specific core leadership ability that is illustrative of the many competencies of that president. The curriculum draws from the resources of each Presidential Center that relates to key leadership moments from each administration, and provides insights from how each president addressed pressing challenges. It also incorporates in-depth analyses of how leaders across all sectors address similar types of challenges.

The curriculum concentrates on four leadership abilities:

- Engaging Others Through Vision and Communication
- Making Decisions
- Working Collaboratively to Influence and Persuade Stakeholders
- Building Working and Strategic Partnerships

“This program is a game-changer. It's expanded my sense of what's possible, given me the skills to achieve it, and, when I hit roadblocks, I have 59 new best friends to help keep me on track. I'd say the training at PLS has had at least as much impact on me as my MBA from a world-class institution. I'm energized to be with talented people who share a mindset and drive to create positive change.”

– Scholar Alumnus

During the program, Scholars work on a Personal Leadership Project aimed at improving the civic or social good by addressing a problem or need in a community, profession, or organization. These projects leverage the Scholars' existing knowledge and experience with the skills and competencies learned throughout the program to produce exceptional results.

THE SCHOLAR EXPERIENCE

The program requires a six-month commitment. During that time, the class meets for an opening week session and one extended weekend per month during the following five months at each of the Presidential Centers. In total, the program encompasses approximately 100 to 120 hours of learning.

The program is highly competitive, with each class of approximately 60 Scholars selected from a deep pool of applicants. Scholars are chosen because of their desire and capacity to take their leadership strengths to a higher level in order to help their communities and our country. Scholars attend sessions where they not only hear from compelling experts, but receive feedback and support towards their personal leadership development.

PROGRAM IMPACT

The Presidential Leadership Scholars program was designed to address society's most complex challenges by increasing the leadership performance of participating individuals. A rigorous evaluation measures the program's outcomes, and data from the 2015 program shows:

- All 60 participants strongly recommend the program to others; the program's net promotor score is an unparalleled 100.
- **80%** of Scholars reported significant growth in their belief in what they can accomplish as leaders for social change.
- **86%** of Scholars were significantly more inspired to achieve more in improving society.
- **85%** of Scholars said their leadership abilities had grown significantly.
- Both Scholars and those they work with on a regular basis saw significant improvements in the Scholars' understanding and implementation of essential leadership skills across the four key dimensions of vision and communication, decision-making, influence and persuasion, and coalition building.

For more information on Presidential Leadership Scholars, please contact Kristin King.

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