



# WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM



**“A genuinely free society cannot be a spectator society ... It requires full and zestful, knowledgeable participation.”**

— President Lyndon B. Johnson, who established the Fellowship in 1964. The Fellowship has been strongly supported by every administration since the program's founding.

## PROGRAM MISSION

In the words of President Lyndon B. Johnson, the purpose of the White House Fellows Program is “to give the Fellows first-hand, high-level experience with the workings of the Federal Government and to increase their sense of participation in our national affairs.”

In describing the criteria for selection, President Johnson envisioned Fellows who “have demonstrated high moral character, exceptional ability, marked leadership qualities, and unusual promise of future development.” For more than 50 years, the White House Fellows program has delivered on this vision.

After their year of service, Fellows are expected to take their acquired skills and knowledge back to their communities to work as private citizens and as national leaders in their fields.

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Founded in 1964, the President's Commission on White House Fellowships is the nation's premier program for leadership and public service. The White House Fellowship offers exceptional Americans first-hand experience working at the highest levels of the Federal government. After a competitive application process, selected individuals spend a year in Washington, D.C. working as a full-time, paid Fellow aiding Cabinet Secretaries, senior White House staff, and other top-ranking government officials. Fellows also participate in an education program consisting of roundtable discussions with renowned leaders from the private and public sectors. Fellowships are awarded on a strictly non-partisan basis.

Since 1964, more than 800 Americans have been White House Fellows. Through this rich diversity of talent and experience, the Fellows family is united by an enduring commitment to public service.

## PROGRAM COMPONENTS

### WORK PLACEMENT

The primary aim of the Fellowship is to place the Fellows in a work environment where positive role models provide mentorship and guidance. The work placement is at the highest levels of government, and Fellows serve as special assistants to Cabinet officers and senior White House Staff in order to tap the Fellows' full capacity and develop their abilities further. Fellows are not always assigned to an agency associated with the Fellow's area of expertise.

### EDUCATION PROGRAM

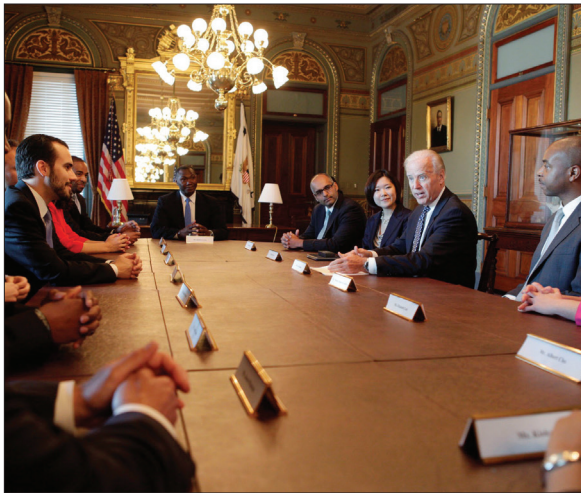
The education program supplements the Fellows' experience in their placements by providing off-the-record, candid discussions with distinguished leaders. Through the education program, Fellows gain valuable insights into the decision-making processes used to solve complex issues. They also learn about various management philosophies and leadership styles.

### POLICY TRIPS

The Fellowship year is enriched with Policy trips in the US and abroad that allow Fellows to explore firsthand the impact of national and foreign policy.

### CLASS FELLOWSHIP

Among the most enriching components of the program is class fellowship, which often results in enduring friendships. Alumni convene at yearly meetings in Washington, DC and welcome new Fellows into one of the most prestigious networks of professionals and leaders in the country.



## SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrated unusual ability, outstanding motivation, and a broad capacity for leadership.
- Show exceptional promise of future development.
- Are dedicated to the institutions of the United States and the values of American civilization.

## APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Applicant must be a U.S. citizen.
- Federal government employees are not eligible, with the exception of career military personnel and some special government employees.
- Applicants must have completed their undergraduate education.
- Applications are available online in November and are due in January of each year and the Fellowship runs from September to August.

## PROGRAM IMPACT

For more than five decades, the White House Fellowship has served diverse administrations and, through the cross-fertilization of ideas and experience, has enriched the practice of public policy.

Fellows make notable contributions during their year of service and continue to impact our communities, our country, and the world long after their Fellowship year.

56 Years of Fellowship

Senate-Confirmed Positions 71

60 Generals / Admirals

Business / Non-Profit Leaders 180

54 University Presidents / Deans

White House Fellows Alumni 830

Below are just a few examples of Fellows currently serving in their communities who continue to use their leadership skills in exemplary ways.



**Sharice Davids**  
U.S. Rep., Kansas 3rd District  
WHF 2016–17



**Paul Gigot**  
WHF 1986–87  
Editorial Page Editor/VP  
The Wall Street Journal



**Dr. Sanjay Gupta**  
WHF 1997–98  
Chief Medical Correspondent,  
CNN



**Cesar Conde**  
WHF 2002–03  
Chairman,  
NBCUniversal News Group



**Nicole Malachowski**  
WHF 2008–09  
First female pilot of the  
USAF Thunderbirds



**Robert Reffkin**  
Founder & CEO of Compass  
WHF 2005–06

Are you ready to make an impact? Become a White House Fellow. Visit [www.whff.org](http://www.whff.org)