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 round-table discussions with renowned leaders from the private and public sectors. Fellowships are awarded on a strictly non-partisan basis.

Since 1964, over 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 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. Below are just a few examples of Fellows who continue to use their leadership skills in exemplary ways.

Doris Kearns Goodwin
WVF 1967–68

Gen. Colin Powell
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Dr. Sanjay Gupta
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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 MISSION**

“A genuinely free society cannot be a spectator society...It requires full and zestful, knowledgable participation.” — President Lyndon B. Johnson, who established the Fellowship in 1964

**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.

**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 and where they can make the greatest contribution. The work placement should tap the Fellows' full capacity and develop their abilities further. Fellows are not always assigned to a Federal 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.

**APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY**

- Applicant must be a U.S. citizen.
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