NEW Leadership MS brings together undergraduate women to enhance their understanding of politics and prepare them to seize leadership roles in politics and public service. The program is a unique opportunity for young women to increase their understanding of policymaking processes, identify a range of careers in politics and public service, network with a diverse group of professional women in those careers, and nurture their own ambition for a life of leadership.
The 2021 institute will take place over seven days: June 9th and 10th and June 13th to 17th. This year, NEW Leadership® Mississippi is collaborating with the national network of NEW Leadership® programs to offer a hybrid experience.

**Virtual programming** will take place over two weeks: June 9th and 10th and June 14th to 16th. This exciting new programming will include representatives, speakers and students from NEW Leadership® programs in over 15 states and will feature nationally renowned women in politics scholars as well as some of the nation’s most influential activists, lobbyists, and elected officials. Each day, virtual sessions will begin at 11:00 am and end between 4:00 and 4:30 pm, with short breaks scheduled throughout.

**Residential programming** will take place on the campus of Mississippi University for Women, in Columbus, MS, from June 13-17. At no additional cost to themselves, residential participants will have the benefit of living together on campus, completing a political action project, and receiving in-person mentoring from professional political women in Mississippi (our Faculty in Residence). Participants will still attend the national virtual program but will have face-to-face activities on the 13th and 17th as well as before and after virtual sessions on the 14th, 15th, and 16th.

*Combining the personal connections and mentoring of state-based, residential programming with the exposure and access provided by national virtual sessions.*

Participants choose whether to attend the full, hybrid program or only the online sessions.

All Participants earn 2 college credits in women’s studies or political science that may be transferred to the institution they attend.

The only cost to students is a $20.00 non-refundable confirmation fee, paid after acceptance.

NEW Leadership® is open to undergraduate students enrolled in any Mississippi college or university and Mississippi residents enrolled in out-of-state schools.
CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

NEW Leadership Mississippi teaches women’s politics, the impact of politics on our lives, and how to increase engagement. Intensive programming features scholarly experts in women’s history and politics as well as women shaping public policy as elected and appointed officials, campaign managers, public servants, lobbyists, journalists, community leaders and issue advocates. Learning takes place via a range of pedagogical techniques, including interactive presentations and panels, small group discussions, hands-on workshops, and an “Action Project” in which students present testimony in a mock legislative committee hearing.

Living together for this immersive program builds a sense of community and encourages long-term professional relationships among a diverse group of participants. In addition, women political leaders serve as Faculty in Residence (FIRs), staying on campus with the students for the duration of the program. This allows for an intensive mentoring experience in which learning extends beyond scheduled sessions as informal conversations continue over meals and in residence halls. Participants are encouraged to share ideas, challenge opinions they heard during the day, and reflect in a way that could not occur in non-residential programs.

On the other hand, we understand that the COVID-19 pandemic is still a concern. While we hope participants will be able to get vaccinated and join us on campus, we are proud to offer a virtual option for those who feel more comfortable joining from a distance.