

NEW Leadership™ is a national bi-partisan program to educate college women about the political process and teach them to become effective leaders in politics.

MISSISSIPPI
N.E.W.
Leadership



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Mississippi University for Women (The W) and the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service will present the fifth annual Mississippi N.E.W. Leadership program on May 20-24, 2018 on the W campus. This year's application deadline is March 26th.

The program brings together female college students from all eight public universities in the state, seven private colleges and community colleges. These young women examine the value that women bring to leadership positions in government and are encouraged to pursue leadership opportunities in government. Participants learn about women in politics, women's pathways to power, obstacles to women's leadership, attitudes toward women leaders, and strategies to encourage full participation and representation of women in political leadership.

Unfortunately, while many college women indicate an interest in public service and are active in community and volunteer organizations, they rarely consider a career in political life. Studies have shown that young women are significantly less likely than young men to be interested in politics or to view political involvement as a priority.

Mississippi is the only southern state that has never sent a woman to Congress. The state ranks 47th in the nation in the percentage of women in the state legislature (a paltry 14.4 percent).

GOAL

The goal of Mississippi N.E.W. Leadership is to educate and inspire a new generation of women to be leaders in government. The program teaches students to recognize the value of civic engagement and the importance of having women in positions of political leadership. Mississippi N.E.W. Leadership provides opportunities for college women to prepare for roles in public office and helps them develop the skills and confidence necessary to join the next generation of leaders at local, state and federal levels.



SPRING PROGRAM

In practice, Mississippi N.E.W. Leadership is an intensive, five-day residential program during which participants: (1) engage with women in a variety of roles in government; (2) learn about politics and policy-making and women's political participation; (3) explore ideas about leadership; and (4) participate in hands-on, skill-building exercises. The program uses a variety of pedagogical techniques, including small and large group discussions, panel sessions with leaders, interactive workshops, and student-driven group projects.

Participants are required to live in a residence hall at The W and may receive two hours of college credit in leadership for attending which can be transferred to their institution. Living together for this immersive, five-day program builds a sense of esprit de corps among the group and encourages a collegial, and often intense, interaction among a very diverse group of participants.

Mississippi N.E.W. Leadership residential faculty (termed Faculty in Residence, or FIRs), who are women political leaders, agree to stay on campus with the students for the duration of the program. This allows for an intensive learning and mentoring experience, not only among participants, but between participants and women political leaders. The learning experience extends beyond the scheduled program sessions as informal conversations continue over meals and in residence halls. During this time, participants are encouraged to share ideas, challenge opinions they heard during the day, and reflect in a way that might not occur in non-residential programs.



MISSISSIPPI N.E.W. LEADERSHIP STAFF

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*Application deadline is March 26, 2018

The admissions process is competitive, and there is no fee to participate.

The application is available online at muw.edu/newleadership. Please direct questions to NEWLeadership@muw.edu.