FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 1, 2018

2019-2020 White House Fellowship

The application for the 2019-2020 White House Fellowship is now open.

Today, Robert M. Duncan, Chairman of the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships, announced the opening of the application season for the 2019-2020 White House Fellowships: “This uniquely non-partisan program has a distinguished legacy that reaches back more than half a century, and we hope that Americans with a passion for leadership and public service will take a look at the website, examine the criteria, and consider applying – or urge others to consider applying.”

Founded in 1964, the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships is the Nation’s premiere 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 on a strictly non-partisan basis. Selected individuals spend a year in Washington, D.C., working as full-time, paid government employees aiding Cabinet Secretaries, senior White House staff, and other top-ranking government officials.

The program has fostered a remarkable legacy of leadership. Of the more than 700 alumni in the last half-century, scores have gone on to top positions in the military, in business, in education, in the media, and in philanthropy. Current public officials who are alumni include: Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao; U.S. Ambassador to Japan Bill Hagerty, and U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan.

The 2019-2020 White House Fellowship program year will begin in August 2019 and conclude in August 2020. All applicants must be a United States citizen and have completed their undergraduate education. Federal Government employees are not eligible, with the exception of active duty military personnel.
Selection criteria include:

- A record of remarkable early-career professional achievement.
- Evidence of leadership skills and the potential for further growth.
- A demonstrated commitment to public service.
- The skills to succeed at the highest levels of the Federal Government and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.

Interested individuals may apply at: https://fellows.whitehouse.gov/. The application is available beginning November 1, 2018, and will remain open until January 16, 2019, at 5:00 p.m. EST. Any applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

For more information, including details about the Fellowship, its history, and the selection process, please visit: https://www.whitehouse.gov/get-involved/fellows/. Any questions regarding the White House Fellows program can be directed to whitehousefellows@who.eop.gov.

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“A genuinely free society cannot be a spectator society… Freedom, in its deepest sense, requires participation. It requires full and zestful, knowledgeable participation.”
— President Lyndon B. Johnson

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Founded in 1964, the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships is the nation’s premiere 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.

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 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.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- A record of remarkable professional achievement early in one's career.
- Evidence of leadership skills and the potential for further growth.
- A demonstrated commitment to public service.
- The skills to succeed at the highest levels of the Federal government, and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.

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 August to August.

Make an impact. Become a White House Fellow.
Visit https://www.whitehouse.gov/participate/fellows to learn more.
**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. The education component of the program provides 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.

**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, D.C. and welcome new Fellows into one of the most prestigious networks of professionals and leaders in the country.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**
Community service is a key component of the White House Fellowship. Fellows have a strong legacy of service to their communities and have consistently participated in community service projects throughout their year in Washington, D.C.

An important outcome of the Fellowship is to foster greater military-civilian engagement and understanding. Through a variety of activities, Fellows gain a deeper understanding about the important contributions of our service men and women, and the operations of our military. This component is among the most enriching aspects of the White House Fellowship and what makes the program truly unique and rewarding.

**IMPACT OF THE FELLOWSHIP**
Fellows make notable contributions during their year of service and continue to impact our communities, our country, and the world. Since 1964, over 700 Americans have participated in the White House Fellows program. Among them are prominent public and private sector leaders like Pulitzer Prize-winning author and historian, Doris Kearns Goodwin, Secretary Elaine Chao, United States Ambassador to Japan, Bill Hagerty, and former Secretary of State General Colin Powell, who described the program as a “turning point” in his career. While these distinguished individuals are well-known, the ranks of the fellows alumni also include a Soldier’s Medal recipient, the U.S. Army’s highest decoration for valor in a non-combat situation, awarded for bravery exhibited during the Boston Marathon bombing, CEOs, teachers, social entrepreneurs, scientists, and founders of nonprofit organizations who we are proud to count as White House Fellows. Through this rich diversity of talent and experience, the Fellows family is united by an enduring commitment to public service.

Make an impact. Become a White House Fellow.  
Visit [https://www.whitehouse.gov/participate/fellows](https://www.whitehouse.gov/participate/fellows) to learn more.