

## Celebrating 51 Years of Developing the Leaders We Need!

The Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP), a program of the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL), prepares high-potential individuals for positions of leadership in education and related fields.

For over half a century, EPFP has been a vehicle for exploring and debating challenging policy issues that impact education. EPFP is a trusted resource that helps leaders develop a deep understanding of policy issues from diverse perspectives, build leadership skills, and connect to a collaborative network of high-impact leaders for educational change. EPFP is the longest-running national Fellowship of its kind with:

- ✓ 260+ annual Fellows across 14 sites
- ✓ 8,000 alumni in 46 states.

At a time when there are so many different viewpoints about what it takes to educate our children, experiences like EPFP are more important than ever. The impact of the Common Core on teaching and student learning, inequity and poverty, the role of charters and choice, and how to prepare young people for college and career are subjects of much debate. EPFP enables Fellows to broaden their understanding of education issues through cross-sector and cross-system learning.

Evidence from national assessments confirms that EPFP Fellows become informed and skilled leaders and a part of a network that provides long-term benefits to their career. EPFP alumni are former Cabinet Secretaries; State Chiefs; Teachers and Administrators of the Year, business and nonprofit leaders. The Fellows' employers benefit by having better informed, more skillful staff who understand policymaking, are prepared to assume greater leadership responsibilities and equipped to make dynamic, research-based contributions to education policy and practice.

We know that there is a great need for spaces where people in different roles, in different organizations, and of different persuasions can explore challenging education issues together. We also know that individuals "in the trenches" need opportunities to develop their leadership capacities. EPFP is the vehicle to meet that need.

If you would like to participate in an EPFP experience, please contact the EPFP national office: Dr. Helen Janc Malone, Director, National EPFP  
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### EPFP Institutional Partners

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“My Fellowship has equipped me with the tools to become a change agent for education policy and practices. Attending the EPFP sessions and working with other Fellows to develop a policy project has trained me to be a skilled advocate to bring positive change to the education arena.”

*Howard Jones, Jr. (PA EPFP '09-10)*

“Participating in Washington, DC’s Education Policy Fellowship Program provided me an unparalleled opportunity to connect with a diverse array of leaders, advocates, and practitioners in education. I am truly grateful for the knowledge, collaboration, and coaching I received from my peers - in addition to the stellar socializing and support that continues to this day!”

*Keira Dembowski (DC EPFP '11-12)*

“EPFP has opened up important lines of communications at the local, state, and national level for thoughtful policy dialogue. The education policy reforms today [in Michigan] are an outgrowth of the forward thinking that EPFP incubated and initiated.”

*Mike Flanagan, Chief State School Officer, Michigan (EPFP Sponsor)*



### Who are EPFP Fellows?

Fellows are mid-career professionals, at a stage where they are poised to make an impact on education. They are diverse by race and ethnicity, professional preparation, and employing organization. Each EPFP cohort includes teachers, principals, superintendents, local and state education agency representatives, higher education professionals, as well as individuals from community-based and business organizations, social service agencies, and other complementary sectors. Fellows are selected via individual site-based criteria.

### What constitutes an EPFP learning experience?

The EPFP learning experience is contextual, timely, and unique. In order to build cross-boundary leaders, EPFP coordinators at each sites create customized experiences that respond to Fellows’ interests. Over a course of 10 months, Fellows engage in deep conversations, policy seminars, retreats, state policy forums (Hill days), book clubs, policy projects, and sites visits that address important topics in policy and education.

In addition, Fellows engage in two cross-site experiences, the Regional Leadership Forum and the Washington Policy Seminar. The Regional Leadership Forum is a strategic leadership experience situated on the Gettysburg Battlefield and the U.S. Army War College with a focus on vision, culture, and ethics. The Washington Policy Seminar is a multi-day capstone professional development experience in Washington, DC that brings all the Fellows together to focus on policy-making processes through active learning (e.g., Congressional simulations, Hill visits, interactive sessions, and networking events).

### What is EPFP’s Vision for the Future?

The designers of EPFP believed in a robust public education system – one that prepares young people for college and career and as contributing members of our great democracy. For the next fifty years, developing leaders who can contribute to this everlasting purpose will remain the focus of EPFP and at the heart of the IEL’s work. EPFP will continue to develop cross-boundary leaders for education, expand nationally, and strengthen its alumni base as a professional network of catalysts for meaningful social change.

**For more information, visit: <http://epfp.iel.org>**