



The Mayor's Fellows

Overview

The Mayor's Fellows program is one of Columbia's most prestigious programs for leadership and public service. The Fellowships offer exceptional young men and women first-hand experience working at the highest levels of municipal government.

Purpose

Formed in 2010 by Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin:

The purpose of the Mayor's Fellows program is to provide gifted and highly motivated young students with: 1) first-hand experience in the process of governing the City; and 2) personal involvement in the leadership of society.

It is essential to the healthy functioning of our city that we have, in the non-governmental sector, a generous supply of leaders who have an understanding -- gained first hand -- of the challenges that our government faces. Often in today's society, individuals feel increasingly remote from the centers of power and decision. It becomes imperative that leaders help their fellow citizens comprehend the process by which government works.

Selection and Program Involvement

Selected individuals typically spend a semester working with the Mayor's Office and Senior Staff, receiving exposure to various municipal departments. Fellows also participate in an education program consisting of roundtable discussions with renowned leaders from the private and public sectors and study municipal policy in action.

Fellowships are awarded on a strictly non-partisan basis, with some consideration given to those students interested in pursuing careers in the public sector. The program is open to 10 collegiate students currently pursuing undergraduate or graduate/professional coursework.