About the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life

The Institute for Women in Public Life was founded in the fall of 1996 with the goal of encouraging women to take a more active role in the formation of public policy. With offices at UMSL and UMKC, the Institute shares the University’s mission to enhance and improve the community it serves.

To learn more, please visit our website: www.umsl.edu/sueshear

The Sue Shear Institute is a non-partisan, educational entity. Programs of the Institute are open to participants regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, and status as a military veteran.

“I had no idea that an engineer could have so much fun with politics!”
~Monique Maxey
Southeast Missouri State University

Demonstrated leadership skills and interest in women’s public policy leadership are the two prerequisites for successful participation in the program. Applicants should check to see if there are other criteria specific to their school.

All majors are encouraged to apply! Past participants have included medical students, pre-law students, undergraduate majors and graduate students in business, social work, education, engineering, and various liberal arts fields, so there is no specific academic profile for the successful leadership participant.

Spend the week with women leaders, improve your leadership skills and make a difference in your career, your university, your community, and your life!

"It has shown me that you don’t have to be ‘political’ to influence public policy... I can make changes..."
~Monique Maxey
Southeast Missouri State University

When is it?
The 21st Century Leadership Academy is a 6-day residential program held on the campus of the University of Missouri-St. Louis. The program is typically held the last full week in May, concluding on the Friday before Memorial Day weekend.

What does it cost?
Participating campuses express their commitment to this program by partially underwriting the program costs, including housing and most meals, for their Shear Fellows. There will be no costs to Fellows other than incidental expenses incurred during their stay at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Past Shear Fellows have gone on to:

WORK IN THE WHITE HOUSE, AT THE UNITED NATIONS, ON CAPITOL HILL & THE MISSOURI GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

EARN FULBRIGHT AND TRUMAN FELLOWSHIPS

EXCEL IN GRADUATE AND LAW SCHOOL

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

CLERK FOR FEDERAL, APPELLATE & SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

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Apply to represent your school as a Shear Fellow at the 21st century LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

realize your potential!

Sponsored by: The SUE SHEAR INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE
Encouraging Women’s Civic Engagement

As a Shear Fellow, you will:

LEARN HOW TO INFLUENCE AND SHAPE PUBLIC POLICY

PRACTICE LEADERSHIP SKILLS SUCH AS PUBLIC SPEAKING & NETWORKING

BUILD SELF-CONFIDENCE BY MEETING WITH INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS

The Leadership Academy’s unique curriculum includes a day trip to Jefferson City to meet with women elected officials and government leaders. Shear Fellows will also practice their networking skills at an evening event keynoted by a prominent woman in public life, and enjoy many opportunities to get to know a diverse group of exceptional student leaders with wide-ranging interests.

PAST SHEAR FELLOWS HAVE...
* Held mock debates on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives
* Had lunch at the Governor’s Mansion and Supreme Court with women elected officials, judges and other policy leaders
* Participated in skill-building workshops, small group sessions, and panel discussions
* Visited government agencies and private sector organizations that help shape public policy

Contact the SUE SHEAR INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE by calling (314) 516-4727 or by e-mail: dstock@umsl.edu