

A Year in the Policy Fellows program

*Please note: The following is a **sample, composite curriculum** showing some of the topics, speakers, and activities from past years. This is **NOT** a schedule for the upcoming year. Locations have typically been the Humphrey School or another University of MN location.*

September: Opening Day and Orientation

- Fellows' introductions and begin connecting with the cohort
- Program overview, goals, and expectations
- Understanding politics and policy today with Prof. Larry Jacobs, faculty director
- Alumni panel: Making the most of your Policy Fellows experience
- Workshop: How You Can Influence the Minnesota Legislature

October: Leadership Mindfulness

- Workshop: Emotional Intelligence & Mindfulness for Powerful Leaders
- Workshop: Grounded Leadership: Practices to Enhance Strategic Decision Making
- Fellows begin developing ideas for group project topics

November: Ways of Knowing – Exploring Different Ways of Defining Problems and Solutions

- Guest speakers and conversation on Ways of Knowing
- Fellows caucus to explore and select ideas for group projects

December: Intercultural Competency and Conflict Fluency

- Workshop: Conflict Fluency and Intercultural Competency
- Workshop: Demystifying State Legislative Meetings
- Fellows continue working in small groups on policy projects at each session throughout the year

January: Engaging Stakeholders and Seeking Impact

- Workshop: Equity Centered Stakeholder Mapping
- Workshop: Farther Together? Coalition Building
- Guest speakers: Panel of coalition members

February: Study Trip to Washington, D.C.

- **Day 1** – Arrival in D.C.; Group orientation and discussion
- **Day 2** – The Pentagon and Capitol Hill; evening reception
- **Day 3** – The White House and the Hall of States
- **Day 4** – Council on Foreign Relations; evening return to MN

March: Minnesota's State Government at Work

Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul

- Meetings and conversations with Supreme Court Justices, lobbyists and media, legislative leaders, and executive branch leaders.
- Legislative Committee Hearing Simulation

April: Adaptive Leadership: Paradoxes and Polarities

- Workshop: Bridging Divides: What to do When People Disagree
- Guest speakers: Building trust despite tension *with Amy Koch, former MN Senator and Senate Republican Majority Leader; and Javier Morillo, former president, Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 26*
- Fellows give interim reports on their group project progress

May: Communication, Persuasion, and Influence

- Workshop: Strategic Communications
- Guest Speakers: Political Campaign Communications
- Guest Speakers: Panel discussion with members of the media

June: Final Group Project Presentations

Fellows work together throughout the year to complete small-group projects on topics of their choosing. In June, groups present their process and outcomes to their "fellow Fellows" and guests.

Policy Fellows projects have included:

- Returning Veterans: Aiding in transition from warrior to citizen
- Community equity pipeline: Developing policymakers to influence and transform the Capitol
- Radicalization of Minnesota Somali Youth
- Strategic Food Waste Reduction Plan for Minnesota State Fair
- Childcare Costs in Minnesota