



AMERICA'S TRUMAN SCHOLARS

THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

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We identify young people at an important inflection point in their development—when they are college juniors—and recognize and reward their commitments to devote themselves to public service.

We take risks by investing in leaders when they are young. Although certainly accomplished, many are still largely untested at that age. Yet when you look at what the now more than 3,000 Truman Scholars have achieved, our risk-taking is paying off. For a small investment – at the right time – the returns are impressive.

Trumans are working in the West Wing, sitting on the US Supreme Court, and serving in federal and state legislatures. They are transforming nonprofits, delivering crucial services and organizing for change in local communities. And Truman Scholars are leaders in academia, research, and health care. They can be found in every branch of the Armed Services. And many make a difference beyond the borders of the United States.

Almost four decades into our work, we honor President Truman with a unique approach to effecting outstanding public service leadership, an approach he prescribed and that is simultaneously low-cost and high-impact. This report chronicles the key activities of the Truman Foundation in 2021, and it highlights the ways that the Foundation continues to represent an outstanding public investment, one that honors a president from the last century by preparing leaders for the challenges of the future.

The 2021 Selection Process

In 2021, the Truman Foundation selected 62 new Truman Scholars. The new Scholars were announced on April 15, 2021, after a rigorous national selection process during which they were chosen from among 845 applications received from students at 328 different colleges and universities.

From the applicant pool, 193 finalists were chosen from 129 institutions. The selection process began with a review of all received applications by the Foundation's Finalist Selection Committee, a group made up of twenty former Truman Scholars, distinguished public servants and admissions representatives from top law and public affairs graduate programs.

Then, during March and early April, these finalists were interviewed virtually on Zoom by one of sixteen Regional Review Panels convened across the country with each panel consisting of 5-10 senior figures in public service, including many former Truman Scholars. Due to the ongoing covid-19 pandemic, these interviews did not convene in person. These panels made final choices about the 2021 class of Truman Scholars, a group of 62 new Scholars representing 51 different institutions, including 26 public colleges and universities plus two of the service academies.

In total, over 100 elected officials, distinguished public servants, former Truman Scholars, and graduate admissions representatives gave their time to assist the Truman Foundation with the 2021 Scholar selection process. In addition, the Truman Foundation relied on the superb efforts of hundreds of faculty and fellowship advisers at colleges and universities across the United States.

The 62 new Truman Scholars selected in 2021 are diverse in just about every way imaginable, except in their shared commitments to public service leadership. Three schools had their first ever Truman Scholar in 2020. The names and brief information about each of the 2020 Truman Scholars are located on our website at www.truman.gov/search-our-scholars (please enter '2020' as the Selection Year).

Truman Programming

When the first class of Truman Scholars was selected in 1977, the freshly minted Scholars – all college sophomores – were flown to Independence, Missouri, for a weekend ceremony to be recognized among their peers and sent off with \$20,000 in scholarship support. The money was the award. Back then, Scholars received support for their last two years of college and the first portion of a graduate program, and they met each other only that one time, as

they received the award in Missouri. From there, we sent them off to finish their educations with independence from one another and from the Truman Scholarship Foundation.

Times have changed, and so has the Truman Scholar experience. The number and types of graduate programs relevant to public service have multiplied; so too have the challenges facing leaders in public service. In response, the mandate of the Truman Foundation has evolved so that we not only provide financial support to an outstanding collection of individual “change agents,” but we also seek to build community among them. Community building among Truman Scholars strengthens their knowledge of the diverse paths to public service leadership, it deepens their commitment to lead and work in collaboration with others, and it forms bonds of lasting friendship.

Instead of convening for five days in Missouri for Truman Scholars Leadership Week (TSLW), the 2021 class of Scholars met virtually over 4 days in May. TSLW includes community and team building activities, leadership development, and policy discussions. The new Scholars are provided with intensive mentoring throughout the week by a group of nine former Truman Scholars, all of whom are about ten years into their chosen careers. These Senior Scholars take part in group and one-on-one sessions about the personal and professional trials and tribulations associated with careers in public service.

In 2021, we were joined at TSLW by seasoned Truman Scholars who are distinguished public service leaders; they spent time with the new class of Scholars:

- Lisette Nieves (NY 90), presentation if serving, leading, and risk taking
- Rob Sand (IA 05) and Adair Boroughs (SC 01), presentation on Running for Office
- Molly Claflin (OR), winner of the 2020 Stevens Award
- Andy Rich (DE 93), Staats Award Winner
- Representative Andy Kin (NJ 03), congratulatory address to new Scholars and their families

It has long been our custom at the Truman Foundation to organize TSLW to produce a state of “constructive confusion” for new Truman Scholars: encouraging the Scholars to carefully examine their chosen professional paths along with their plans for graduate study, all outlined with great specificity in their Scholar applications. In many cases, we advise new Scholars to take time off between college and graduate school in order to acquire professional experience and to clarify that their chosen graduate degrees make the most sense for what they want to be doing in the long term.

In order to assist Scholars in these regards, the Foundation supports two programs that bring Truman Scholars to Washington, DC, for a period between college and graduate study to participate in internships or jobs in public service. The first of these programs is the Truman Summer Institute, available to Truman Scholars a year following when they receive the award, typically the summer after they graduate from college. Summer Institute is designed to deepen understanding of the national policymaking process and enhance community among participants.

In 2021, due to the covid-19 pandemic, the Truman Foundation held a virtual SI program. 49 Truman Scholars from the class of 2019 and 2020 participated in Summer Institute. Scholars came together every Tuesday evening to make presentations to one another – short talks – to better acquaint their fellow Scholars with their states, hobbies, or interests. Because of the virtual nature of the program, scholars were scattered across the country.

Following Summer Institute, twenty-nine Scholars participated in the year-long Truman-Albright Fellows Program, a program made possible thanks to the generous support of the Truman Foundation’s President, Madeleine K. Albright. Truman-Albright Fellows have full-time positions in public service and participate in activities designed to expand their knowledge, horizons, and networks as public service leaders. They are required to participate in Tuesday evening workshops (with meetings once every two weeks between September and December) and in a unique mentoring program that matches each of them with a more experienced Truman Scholar with similar interests.

By the end of the program, as in prior years, Truman-Albright Fellows will be better equipped to make decisions about their professional futures and better supported to make those decisions with the advice of a wide range of seasoned leaders in public service.

In 2013, the Truman Foundation initiated two new programs open to Truman Scholars from all cohorts who have a particular interest in electoral politics or senior positions in the federal executive branch: The Truman Democracy Fellows, and the Truman Governance Fellows, respectively. We launched the Truman Democracy Fellows Program in 2013, and we launched the Governance Fellows Program in 2014. In 2021 we ran the Democracy Fellows Program for 13 Scholars. We convened in person in Washington, D.C. for three days in November at the National Press Club.

The Truman Scholar Experience

Over the years, the Truman Scholarship Foundation has refined a program that begins with the best features of other long-established, high prestige national scholarships (e.g., Rhodes and Marshall) by partnering with more than 300 of the leading colleges and universities across the country to identify the nation’s most talented young leaders. We combine these qualities with a single-minded and long-term programmatic commitment to improving the ranks of public service and the direction of national affairs in the United States.

A lookback suggests that our impact has been substantial. Truman Scholars serve in elected and appointed positions at all levels of government: mayors, state legislators, state and local judges, and, at the national level, a member of the U.S. Senate and a member of the U.S. House. Truman Scholars are leading major foundations and national and international NGOs. Across the country and around the world, Truman Scholars are judges, legislators, executives, and organizers; they are teachers, doctors, scientists, and scholars. It is a remarkable group, a signal of our success at achieving precisely what President Truman and his admirers had in mind when the Truman Scholarship Foundation was conceived as the living memorial to our 33rd president.

FY 2020 and FY 2021 Financials

	FY 2020	FY 2021
Income:		
Interest Income	\$918,817.00	\$683,301.00
Appropriation	\$1,670,000.00	\$2,000,000.00
Total Income:	\$2,588,817.00	\$2,683,301.00
Expenses:		
Scholarship Awards and Programming	\$1,340,932.00	\$1,509,263.00
Rent, Salaries & Overhead	\$840,075.00	\$891,878.00
Total Payments:	\$2,181,007.00	\$2,401,501.00
Total Scholarship Support Paid Since 1977	\$62,025,466.00	\$63,202,963.00