



AMERICA'S TRUMAN SCHOLARS

THE 2025 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 3,600 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.

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 2025, 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 2025 Selection Process

In 2025, the Truman Foundation selected 54 new Truman Scholars. The new Scholars were announced in April, after a rigorous national selection process during which they were chosen from among 743 applications received from students at 288 different colleges and universities.

From the applicant pool, 201 finalists were chosen from 138 institutions. The selection process began with a review of all received applications by the Foundation's Finalist Selection Committee, a group made up of 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 by one of 17 Regional Review Panels convened across the country with each panel consisting of senior figures in public service, including many Truman Scholars. These panels made final choices about the 2025 class of Truman Scholars, a group of 54 new Scholars representing 49 different institutions. Twenty-three Scholars attend public colleges and universities while two attend America's service academies.

In total, over 100 elected officials, distinguished public servants, Truman Scholars, and graduate admissions representatives gave their time to assist the Truman Foundation with the 2025 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 54 new Truman Scholars selected in 2025 are diverse in just about every way imaginable, except in their shared commitments to public service leadership. Five schools had their first-ever Truman Scholar. The name, state and academic institution for each of the 2025 Truman Scholars are located at: www.truman.gov/search-our-scholars (please enter '2025' 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.

In May, we convened in Missouri for the annual Truman Scholars Leadership Week (TSLW). TSLW includes community and team-building activities, leadership development, and policy projects. The new Scholars are provided with intensive mentoring throughout the week by a group of Senior Scholars, who are approximately 10-15 years into their chosen careers. These Senior Scholars take part in group and one-on-one sessions about the personal and professional realities associated with careers in public service. In addition to participating in policy projects, Scholars visited the newly renovated Truman Library and Museum, as well as President Truman’s home and the ice cream parlor where he worked while growing up.

In 2025, John King, Jr. (NJ 95) discussed *Teacher by Teacher: The People Who Change our Lives*, his book about the role education played in his life as well as his tenure as the U.S. Secretary of Education. We were also joined at TSLW by seasoned Truman Scholars who spent time with the new class of Scholars:

- Rob Sand (IA 05), state auditor of Iowa;
- Wayne Williams (VA 85) and Hetal Doshi (AL 00), winners of the 2025 Stevens Award; and
- Darci Vetter (NE 95), recipient of the 2025 Staats Award.

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 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 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.

Summer Institute is a formative opportunity for Truman Scholars to spend nine weeks in DC upon graduation from college – living together in George Washington University dorms,

employed in internships, and participating in weekly programming to build community amongst Scholars. As part of the Opening Week programming with the Stennis Center for Public Service, the Truman Foundation awarded its 2025 Skelton Award to Walt Cooper (IN 98) former Green Beret and current Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve.

Following Summer Institute, several dozen Scholars participated in the year-long Truman-Albright Fellows Program, a program made possible thanks to the generous support of the Truman Foundation's late 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 between September and December and in a unique mentoring program that matches each of them with more experienced Truman Scholars with shared professional interests. Speakers included Rep. Gabe Amo (RI 09), Marcia Chatelain (IL 00), Justice Neil Gorsuch (CO 87), Phillip Juengst (CO 97), and Victoria Maloch (AR16). By the end of the program, Truman-Albright Fellows are better equipped to make decisions about their professional futures and supported to make those decisions with the advice of a wide range of seasoned leaders in public service.

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. After 50 years of investing in leaders from every state in the nation, plus DC and the US territories, Truman Scholars serve in elected and appointed positions at all levels of government: mayors, state legislators, judges, ambassadors, in both the United States House and Senate, in the White House, and in the Supreme Court. Truman Scholars are leading major foundations and non-governmental organizations. They command storied military units. Across the country and around the world, Truman Scholars rise to meet their moments in history, just as President Truman rose to meet his in the 20th century. It is a remarkable group, a signal of our success at achieving precisely what President Truman and his bipartisan admirers had in mind when the Truman Scholarship Foundation was conceived as the living memorial to our 33rd president.

FY 2024 and FY 2025 Financials

	FY 2024	FY 2025
Income:		
Interest Income	\$1,733,796.00	\$1,667,893.00
Appropriation	\$2,970,000.00	\$2,970,000.00
Total Income:	\$4,703,796.00	\$4,637,893.00
Expenses:		
Scholarship Awards and Programming	\$1,277,598.00	\$2,095,415.00
Rent, Salaries & Overhead	\$940,793.00	\$1,019,555.00
Total Payments:	\$2,218,391.00	\$3,114,970.00
Total Scholarship Support Paid Since 1977	\$65,969,766.00	\$67,478,771.00