

West Point Leadership Center



FOR US ALL
the Campaign for West Point





“In no other place could anyone gain such access to great leaders, whose counsel, if taken seriously, remembered, and used, is invaluable to professional growth.”

— Cadet Rudy Weisz '12

(Senator Jack Reed '71 with cadets as part of West Point's Black and Gold Leadership Forum.)

In January 1946, while serving as Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote to Major General Maxwell D. Taylor, then superintendent of West Point. Eisenhower urged Taylor to consider adding a course in “practical or applied psychology”: “I think that both theoretical and practical instruction along this line could, at the very least, awaken the majority of cadets to the necessity for handling human problems on a human basis and do much to improve leadership and personnel handling in the Army at large.”

Eisenhower acknowledged that “tremendous advances” had been made in the matters of leadership and personnel management since he was a cadet, but he encouraged the superintendent, his assistants, and the Academic Board to devote “constant and anxious care” to the further development of these areas. This growth could be accomplished, Eisenhower wrote, through “consultation [with] experts both from other schools and from among persons who have made an outstanding success in industrial and economic life.”

While Eisenhower's letter inspired the formal introduction of a leadership department at the Academy, our commitment to leadership development has spanned our entire history. The time-honored traditions that underpin training and education at West Point have guaranteed that we consistently produce graduates who are leaders with firm strength of mind, body, and spirit. Our men and women are leaders who go on to influence the Army, the nation, and the world.

In fact, the principles and techniques of leadership development that we pursue at West Point are so successful that many have been adopted by business and other non-military sectors, both within the United States and globally. This is not surprising since leadership competence is crucial to meet the many challenges we face in our world.

West Point Leadership Center

West Point's primary vehicle for influencing leadership development both on and off post is the Leadership Center. The center is an academic agency responsible for leadership development, practice, and research. West Point, the Army, government entities, educational institutions, and corporations rely on the center's expertise, objectivity, and capability to bring together people who are well qualified to find solutions to real-world problems. Most important, the West Point Leadership Center constitutes an essential component of the Academy's ability to continually refine its Cadet Leader Development System in order to successfully meet the leadership challenges of the 21st century and beyond. The center's faculty, staff, and practitioners enhance the ability of individuals and organizations to innovate and to nurture responsible leadership through research, education, global dialogue, and action.

The center aims to create new forms of knowledge and new activities to advance leadership development worldwide and to transform the way leaders, their organizations, and their societies confront challenges. However, in a rapidly changing world, the way we understand leadership has to change rapidly as well. In order to remain on the forefront of leadership application and knowledge, West Point's Leadership Center must design new pedagogies, methodologies, and technologies to advance leadership development, for our cadets and for our world.

With your support, the West Point Leadership Center can achieve its goal of better integrating the field experience and scientific expertise of faculty from the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Leadership with that of the center-based leadership researchers and other top-tier leadership practitioners throughout the world. The center also will be able to resource research fellows;

attract more world-class researchers and experts to West Point; and pursue exclusive governmental and private research initiatives. An example of the type of value-added research that will be conducted is the West Point Negotiations Project. This project seeks to develop junior leaders' abilities to joint problem solve in a wide array of multi-cultural environments.

Center Programs

Your support will ensure that current leadership initiatives continue to have an impact.

- The Leadership Center's Distinguished Leader Series (DLS) is a faculty-run lecture series that supports cadet development. The DLS brings influential leaders from all sectors to West Point to address cadets. The series hosts eight speakers a year with all cadets majoring in Leadership Development participating, or approximately 300 to 400 cadets. While at West Point, visiting speakers meet with the Superintendent, discuss leadership with smaller select groups of cadets, and receive a tour of the Academy. The rest of their visit is customized to meet a speaker's business and personal interests.
- The Leadership Center's Black & Gold Forum is a cadet-run forum. It gives cadets the opportunity to engage with prominent leaders and leadership thinkers from all walks of life. The B&G Forum typically organizes one major lecture at the Academy, which is attended by roughly 300 cadets. In addition, the B&G Forum gives 60 cadets the chance to take two domestic

trips and one international trip a year to meet with recognized leaders where they work. Cadets identify the leaders with whom they would like to interact. Lastly, cadets involved in the B&G Forum attend many of the monthly lectures offered by the Leadership Center's Distinguished Leader Series (DLS) and interact with the DLS speakers in smaller group discussions.

- The Cadet Leadership Conference will be an annual event organized and run by cadets in interaction with other college student leaders from around the world facilitated by preeminent thought leaders on the subject of leadership.
- The World Leadership Conference will bring together the world's best military and civilian leaders to confer on issues challenging leaders globally. Modeled in part on the World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland, this conference will be the world's most respected senior leadership forum. Faculty will facilitate the dialogues and cadets will be offered the opportunity to participate as observers.

Your gift to the West Point Leadership Center will strengthen the position of West Point as a premier leadership development institution; enhance the center's ability to impact all cadets taking basic and advanced leadership courses today; and expand cadet leadership development opportunities for tomorrow.

In 1946, Eisenhower challenged West Point to better its official program of cadet leadership development. Today, we ask you to help us carry on that challenge.



"Participating in exchanges between Ivy League business schools and West Point has exposed me to new cultures and ideas that will help me appreciate and understand others whether it's in the theater of operations or in a corporate boardroom." —Cadet Neil Vigil '10



The Class of 1983, in support of the West Point Leadership Center, will take pride in the transformative power of their gifts.



Opportunity for Impact

For our gift of \$1.25 million, our class will endow the “Class of 1983 Distinguished Leader Series.” The Leadership Center’s Distinguished Leader Series (DLS) is a faculty-run lecture series that supports cadet development. The DLS brings influential leaders from all sectors to West Point to address cadets. The Series hosts eight speakers a year (September through May) with all cadets majoring in Leadership Development participating or approximately 300-400 cadets.

We Need Your Help!

We are looking for 100% '83 participation in order to make the largest 30th Reunion Gift in Academy History! If you can make a leadership level gift of \$10,000 or above please contact our Fundraising Chairman Harry Shablom (1983classgift@gmail.com) to discuss.

West Point
The United States Military Academy



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