NEW Leadership™ Texas is an intensive, six-day, non-partisan residential program that gives college women the knowledge and skills to become effective leaders in politics, public policy, and public service. This program, sponsored by UT’s Center for Women’s & Gender Studies, is held every summer on The University of Texas at Austin campus.

This year, 36 women attended from 21 universities and colleges: Austin Community College, Brookhaven College, Galveston College, Houston Community College, Lamar University, Lone Star College - Montgomery, Midland College, North Central Texas College, San Jacinto College, Southwestern University, St. Edward’s University, St. Mary’s University, Texas Christian University, Texas Lutheran University, Texas State University, Texas Woman’s University, University of Texas at San Antonio, University of Texas at Austin, University of Texas at El Paso, University of Texas at Tyler, and University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley.

NEW Leadership™ Texas brings together a diverse group of women from across the state to discuss the roles of women in leadership and politics, meet successful women leaders, and develop their leadership skills.

For Program Support We Thank:

Austin College
Houston Community College
Lamar University
Lone Star College - Montgomery
Midland College
North Central Texas College
San Jacinto College North Campus
St. Edward’s University
Texas Christian University
Texas Lutheran University
Texas State University
Texas Woman’s University
University of Rio Grande Valley
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas at El Paso
University of Texas at Tyler
Keynote Address

Terri Broussard Williams believes leaders turn moments into movements. Throughout her accomplished career as a broadcast journalist, press secretary for a US Senate Candidate, philanthropist, lobbyist, and non-profit executive, Broussard Williams has turned public and community service into a professional art-form that has positively impacted millions of lives.

For fifteen years, Terri has made the American Heart Association (AHA) her career home. Her journey at this organization realized her dream of creating significant, community-shifting outcomes in her home state, and later to surrounding states. She counts some of the most significant pieces of legislation passed as her most distinguished accomplishments, including The Louisiana Smoke-Free Air Act, a game-changing career milestone she experienced at the flourishing age of 28.

Broussard Williams received her bachelor’s degree from Louisiana State University. Terri holds a diversity and inclusion certificate from Cornell University and is a graduate of the social impact strategy executive program at the University of Pennsylvania where she currently serves as a teaching fellow. She also serves on several boards including the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Engagement and The Association of Junior Leagues International among others.

Faculty in Residence (FIRs)
The students benefit from the experience of our faculty-in-residence, three women public leaders who serve as mentors for students throughout their stay.

Our 2019 FIRs:
- Tammy Key, Retired Special Agent, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS)
- Dr. Rosamaria Murillo, Director of Community Engagement at Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Harmony Eichsteadt, Chief Community Officer, Worth The Journey
Workshops and Panels
Throughout the week students attended workshops and panel discussions to learn about their leadership styles, public speaking, diversity, networking, policy development, and becoming the next generation of effective civic and political leaders. A few of the workshops are below:

Policy Development Workshop

Leading from Within: What’s my Mission?
Dr. Robert Sterken, Political Science Professor, UT Tyler presented this inspiring workshop that explored the idea and the creation of a personal mission statement.

Learning your Leadership Style
Susan Billmaier, Program Officer, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation led an interactive team-building session that helped identify and understand our personal leadership style through assessment and exercises.

At the Why YOU Should Consider Running for Office Panel, participants heard from elected officials on what motivated them to run for office, their challenges and successes, and shared words of encouragement. Panel included:
- Moderator: Lulu Flores, Partner, Hendler Flores, PLLC
- The Honorable Christi Craddick, Chair, Texas Railroad Commission
- The Honorable Gisela Triana, Justice, Texas Third District Court of Appeals, Place 6
- The Honorable Lora Livingston, Judge, Travis County 261st Civil District Court
- The Honorable Natasha Harper-Madison, Council member, Austin City Council, District 1
Effective Presentation and Communication
Dr. Teri Varner, Associate Professor, St. Edward’s University showed the students that one of the best ways to learn new skills is through practice. During the NEW Leadership™ Texas summer institute, each student practiced public speaking skills by introducing a speaker, panelist or workshop leader.

Why Diversity and Intersectionality Matter
Quynh-Huong N. Nguyen, Assistant Director, Gender and Sexuality Center, UT Austin discussed how identifying multiple systems of oppression (including racism, ableism, classism, and sexism) overlap with gender and sexuality. In this interactive workshop, we learned more about intersectionality and how it relates to being an ally.

Field Trip

The students took a Women in Texas History tour of the Capitol before the following speakers stopped by for a discussion on various positions in state government.
Speakers: (Texas State Capitol, Room E2.028)
• Cristina Masters Policy Aide/Constituent Services Director Donna Howard, Texas State Representative
• Perla Cavazos, Vice President of Government Affairs, Central Health
• Andrea Zelinski, Political Journalist for Houston Chronicle
At Austin City Hall the students enjoyed a tour of the building and the rooftop gardens before attending a panel discussion with women leaders in local government.

Panel: Women in City Leadership
Moderator: Kathie Tovo, City Council Member/ Former Mayor Pro Tem
- Julia Joseph, Financial Manager for the Austin Convention Center
- Dr. Dana Kadavy, Executive Director of the Forensic Science Division for the Austin Police Department
- Farah Muscadin, Director of the Office of Police Oversight
- Sona Shah, Culture and Arts Education Manager at the Asian American Resource Center
- Selena Xie, Clinical Field Specialist for Austin/Travis County Emergency Medical Services and President of the Austin EMS Association
- Sabine Romero, Chief Administrative Officer, City of Austin Innovation Office
NEW Leadership Texas allows participants to do more than just learn about politics; they get to dive in. Political action projects have students work in small groups to research an issue throughout the week and make presentations aimed at influencing public policy. Armetta LaShun Roy coordinated and facilitated every phase of the project.

The Sandra Bland Act was passed and signed into law in 2017 by Governor Greg Abbott. It went into effect on September 2017 and focuses primarily on how law enforcement handles individuals with mental health conditions and the safety of those individuals while they are being held in jail. In 2015 Sandra Bland, a 28-year-old African American woman, was pulled over by Waller County PD. The viral dash cam video shows the heated interaction between Bland and the officer(s) during the routine traffic stop which took place because Bland failed to use her signal light while changing lanes. Within three days Bland was found dead in police custody and her death was ruled a suicide by the Police Department. Originally introduced as HB 2702 by Senator Garnet Coleman of Houston, the final version that passed and was signed into law was written by Senator John Whitmire who represents North Houston. The Bill stands out for two different reasons. First, the Bill serves as a memorial bill, in other words the introduction of the bill is directly related to the death of Sandra Bland while in police custody, and subsequently named after her. Secondly, the bill underwent substantial revision from its original proposed version, and ultimately shifted its focus more on mental health than racial profiling. Both of these things make for a great demonstration in understanding how legislature has to be balanced for it to pass despite the circumstances of its introduction. For the purpose of the Political Action Project looked at the version of the bill that was signed into law which is SB 1849.
We’re on a Mission to Succeed!