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 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, 38 women attended from 27 universities and colleges: Brookhaven Community College, Collin College, George Washington University, Houston Community College, Jacksonville College, Lamar University, McLennan Community College, North Lake College, Prairie View A & M University, Rice University, Sam Houston State University, San Jacinto College, St. Edward’s University, Tarrant Community College, Texas A & M University - Corpus Christi, Texas Christian University, Texas Women’s University, Trinity University, University of Houston - Downtown, University of Texas (Arlington, Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Rio Grande Valley, Permian Basin, San Antonio, Tyler), and Western Texas College.

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.

**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 2018 FIRs:

- Nancy Bocskor, President, Nancy Bocskor Company
- Maggie Buchanan, President, Maggie Jo Consulting, LLC
- Kimberly McGuire, Senior Program Director, ConwayStrategic
Workshops
Throughout the week, students attended workshops to learn about their leadership styles, public speaking, diversity, networking, managing their message, and becoming the next generation of effective civic and political leaders. A few of the workshops are below:

Dr. Teri Varner, Associate Professor at St. Edward’s University, facilitated the Effective Presentation and Communication Workshop. She taught 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 one of our speakers, panelists or workshop leaders.

Dr. Irasema Coronado, Professor at UT El Paso, introduced the students to the contributions of women in politics in her workshop. We explored the ways in which traditional definitions of politics and leadership reinforce barriers to women and people of color. We discussed the important civic contributions women have made to American politics throughout history, the limited representation of women in high-level government offices, and the proportion of women in positions of power.

Karen Landolt, Lecturer at UT McCombs School of Business, facilitated the Networking - Making Connections workshop. This workshop provided networking tips, techniques, strategies and practice to meet the challenge of networking and ensure success.
The students were presented with a variety of panels that led to discussions on public leadership, technology and politics, advocacy, and policy experts. A few of the panels are below:

**Why YOU Should Consider Running For Office Panel**
*Elected officials spoke about their experiences and why they ran for office, as well as their successes and challenges.*
- Moderator: Lulu Flores, Partner, Hendler Lyons Flores, PLLC
- The Honorable Christi Craddick, Chair, Texas Railroad Commission
- The Honorable Gina Hinojosa, Texas State Representative, District 49
- The Honorable Delia Garza, Austin City Council Member, District 2
- The Honorable Sheryl Cole, Former Austin City Council Member and Candidate for State Representative, District 46

**Community Advocate Panel**
*We heard from women who have pursued opportunities to make a positive difference in their community and helped others through personal and professional endeavors.*
- Moderator - Susan Nold, Director, Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Participation
- Cristina Tzintzún, Executive Director, Jolt
- Ana Rodriguez DeFrates, State Advisor, STBF
- Stephanie Lang, Program Administrator, Center for African and African American Studies

**How Tech is Reshaping Politics**
*Millennial leaders in government, campaigns, and nonprofits discussed how technology is reshaping politics.*
- Moderator: Ainee Athar, Political Consultant & Community Organizer
- Angelica Erazo, Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator at Oracle (digital campaigning, corporate social responsibility)
- Ash Hall, Content Manager at Texas Civil Rights Project (digital communications)
- Sara Shields, Program Manager, Austin Tech Alliance (civic tech)

**Consulting with Policy Experts Panel**
*A panel of experts on Texas’ Law of Parties provided information and answered questions to provide a first-hand perspective on HB 316*
- Moderator: Maggie Jo Buchanan, President, Maggie Jo Consulting, LLC
- Jolie McCullough, Criminal Justice Reporter, Texas Tribune
- The Honorable Harold Dutton Jr., Texas State Representative, District 142
- Dr. Lisa Holleran, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, St. Edward’s University
- Kristin Houle, Executive Director, Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
- Amanda Marzullo, Executive Director, Texas Defender Service (via Skype)
In November 2012, Mary E. González was elected State Representative for House District 75—an area that includes east El Paso County, the fastest growing parts of the city of El Paso and the towns of Socorro, Clint, Fabens, and Tornillo. Mary was raised in Clint, Texas and graduated from Clint High School.

Mary serves on the Appropriations Committee, and is Vice Chair of the Agriculture and Livestock Committee in the Texas House. Throughout her time as a State Representative, she has authored numerous bills to improve public schools, increase economic development, and support agriculture in House District 75 and throughout the state.

As a result of her accomplishments, she was named “Freshman of the Year” by the Mexican American Legislative Caucus, a “Champion of Equality” by Equality Texas two sessions in a row, and the 2015 “Advocate of the Year” by the same organization. In 2015, she was the youngest inductee into the El Paso Women’s Hall of Fame. She is currently serving her first term as Vice Chair for the Mexican American Legislative Caucus and was elected Secretary of the House Border Caucus.

Mary received her Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Texas at Austin and her Master’s Degree from St. Edward’s University. Currently, she is pursuing her Doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction-Cultural Studies in Education at UT-Austin.

Previously, she has worked at the National Hispanic Institute, the University of Texas at Austin, and as the Assistant Dean for Student Multicultural Affairs at Southwestern University. Mary currently serves as Co-Chair of the Board of Directors for Allgo, Texas’ state-wide Queer People of Color organization.

Mary has been recognized by Latino Leaders Magazine for her leadership in education, was recognized as one of ten “Next Generation Latinas” by Latina Magazine, and as one of the 10 newly-elected politicians to watch in the nation by NBC Latino.
Visit to Austin City Hall

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.

Members of the panel included:
• Kathie Tovo, City Council Member / Mayor Pro Tem
• Jackie Sargent, General Manager of Austin Energy
• Sara Hensley, Interim Assistant City Manager
• Joya Hayes, Director of Human Resources
• Myrna Rios, Deputy City Clerk
• Julia Joseph, Financial Manager of the Austin Convention Center
• Anna Sabana, Public Information Manager for the Austin Police Department

Visit to the Capitol

The students took a short 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)
• The Honorable Donna Howard, Texas State Representative
• Lauren Hadley, Director of Constituent Services & Policy Analyst, Office of Representative Donna Howard
• Terri Broussard Williams, Vice President of Government Relations, American Heart Association, SouthWest Affiliate
• Linda Battles, Deputy Commissioner for Agency Operations & Communications/COO, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
**Political Action Project: Texas’ Law of Parties, HB 316**

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.

For this exercise, each individual was assigned a particular position on the issue. Many were assigned to a group that takes a position or approach that she would not take in “real life”. This is a learning exercise and it is important, especially in politics, to understand the perspectives and strategies of our opposition. For the purposes of the Political Action Project, we used a modified and edited version of HB 316 (Texas’ Law of Parties) to narrow the focus of the discussion. The culmination of all their hard work is the mock house hearing on the last day.
Another Great Year!

For Program Support, we thank:

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