



LEADERSHIP
ENTERPRISE
for a DIVERSE
AMERICA



Leading
the Way
Forward

Our Leadership

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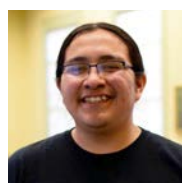
About LEDA

Leadership Enterprise for a Diverse America (LEDA) is a national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to identifying and developing the academic and leadership potential of exceptional public high school students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. These students are currently underrepresented in our nation's top colleges, universities, and ultimately, leadership sectors.



LEDA understands that highly selective colleges and universities are a nexus for the development of leadership. These institutions require an infusion of diversity to improve the mix of ideas and information impacting leaders of public and private organizations across the nation.

By helping socioeconomically disadvantaged students gain admission to and succeed at selective academic institutions, LEDA seeks to equalize educational opportunity. LEDA recognizes that we are better off as a nation and as a people if we offer equal opportunities to all, regardless of socioeconomic status, by drawing upon the leadership potential of all our most talented citizens.

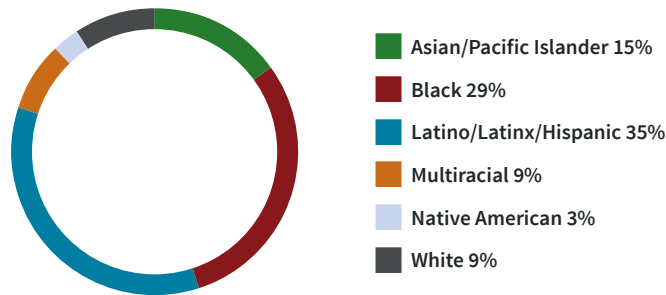


“LEDA changed me in a way that I love. Rather than being some kid who just wanted to get a good job and defy a stereotype, I became a person who is trying to change the world.”

– HARRENSON • CROWN POINT, NM
LEDA Cohort 9, Dartmouth College '18

About Our Scholars

The LEDA Scholars Program specializes in identifying outstanding students who may otherwise remain unrecognized.



LEDA Scholars have come from 48 States and the District of Columbia.



Socioeconomic Background

LEDA Scholars are low-income and, on average, have a household income of \$35,800 per year.

Students who will be first-generation college students are given particular consideration.



Personal Attributes

Demonstrated leadership abilities

Intellectual curiosity and devotion to study

Hunger to learn and achieve academically

Ethics, integrity, and strength of character



Academic Qualifications

Cumulative GPA of at least 3.6 and class ranking within the top 10% of the high school class

A record of enrollment and success in the most rigorous courses available to the student, e.g., honors, AP, IB, dual credit, or concurrent enrollment courses

Exceptional analytical reading and writing skills, demonstrating preparedness for selective colleges and universities

Scores above the national average on the PSAT, SAT, PLAN, and/or ACT

67%

of LEDA Scholars are/will be first-generation college students

32%

of LEDA Scholars have enrolled in Ivy League institutions

83%

of LEDA Scholars have enrolled in Most Competitive colleges and universities as classified by Barron's Profiles of American Colleges

98%

of LEDA Scholars graduate from college within six years, compared to the national six-year graduation rate of 59% for students from low-income backgrounds

3.34

average college GPA for a LEDA Scholar



Recruitment & Admission

Each year, LEDA searches the nation to recruit 100 exceptional students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds to become LEDA Scholars. Successful applicants complete a rigorous, multi-tiered application process that provides a preview of the admission process for selective colleges and universities.

LEDA's Recruitment Strategy

- Identify high schools in low-income communities that make advanced coursework available to their students
- Develop partnerships with nonprofit organizations whose missions align with LEDA's
- Utilize current Scholars to recruit applicants from their high school alma maters
- Travel to schools in rural and urban communities to connect in person with students, guidance counselors, and community partners
- Form ongoing collaborations with counselors and teachers to identify excellent student-leaders from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds

The *Aspects of Leadership* Summer Institute

LEDA Scholars are recruited as juniors in high school and spend the following summer at the *Aspects of Leadership* Summer Institute, housed on the campus of Princeton University. The intensive seven-week program is completely free of charge for LEDA Scholars and includes leadership study, writing instruction, standardized test preparation, and college guidance.



Aspects of Leadership: LEDA's *Aspects of Leadership* curriculum develops Scholars' critical thinking and leadership skills by exploring some of the toughest ethical and policy issues we face in the 21st Century. The course encourages both personal empowerment and collaboration by employing innovative methodologies, including team-building activities, case studies, role-play simulations, debates, critical thinking exercises, and Scholar presentations.

Writing Instruction: LEDA's writing curriculum prepares Scholars to write at the level expected at selective colleges and universities, emphasizing academic argument, clarity of style and structure, research, and revision. Writing classes are limited to 13 Scholars and supplemented by weekly one-on-one conferences with writing instructors, who are current or former faculty at selective universities.

Standardized Test Preparation: Tutoring is provided by Advantage Testing, a leading tutoring company based in New York. Scholars prepare for the SAT and ACT in classes and through practice tests and are provided with preparation materials.

Community Building and Residential Life: For the seven weeks of the Summer Institute, LEDA Scholars live in a Princeton University dormitory and experience a supervised version of collegiate residential life. The residential experience is designed to foster empowerment, personal responsibility, and a strong sense of community among the Scholars.

College Guidance: Through one-on-one counseling sessions and workshops with their LEDA College Guidance Counselor, Scholars explore their interests and strengths, discuss their college options, and assemble a personalized list of colleges that prioritizes individual fit. Scholars learn about over 100 selective colleges and universities through college trips, college fairs, student panels, and information sessions offered for LEDA Scholars by visiting admissions representatives.



College Guidance

LEDA Scholars leave the Summer Institute with a college list and a clear understanding of the college application process. Throughout their senior year, LEDA's staff continues to support Scholars every step of the way.

LEDA's College Guidance Services

- Provides feedback on all college application materials, including expert support on all application essays
- Covers costs for standardized tests and application fees
- Counsels students and families on every step of applying for financial aid
- Helps students identify and complete applications for scholarship opportunities
- Submits detailed recommendation letters to highlight and contextualize the unique achievements of every Scholar
- Advocates for Scholars with college admissions and financial aid offices
- Advises Scholars and families throughout the college enrollment process to ensure that they have the information they need to choose the best college for them

College Success

LEDA prioritizes maintaining close relationships with Scholars throughout their college careers and beyond. LEDA helps students navigate the transition from high school to college and assists them throughout their college careers to become exemplary students and campus leaders both by connecting them with resources at their colleges and supplementing those resources according to individual Scholars' needs.

LEDA helps Scholars succeed & lead in college by:

- Conducting check-ins with each Scholar throughout the first-year transition
- Recommending campus resources to facilitate success and involvement
- Connecting younger Scholars with older Scholars who share their interests and experiences
- Organizing community events—annual reunions, holiday dinners, student panels, networking events, staff visits—on college campuses

LEDA helps Scholars succeed & lead after graduation by:

- Connecting Scholars with internship and job opportunities
- Offering writing support for resumes, cover letters, and graduate school applications
- Advising Scholars as they research graduate programs and plan for admission exams (e.g., GRE, LSAT, GMAT, and MCAT)



LEDA College Graduates: Where Are They Now?

After college, LEDA Scholars pursue exciting careers and graduate study, including:



MEGHAN FROM PORT ISABEL, TX

Rice University '10: Assistant Public Defender at the Defender Association of Philadelphia



GARLAND FROM MODESTO, CA

Princeton University '11: Internal Medicine Resident for Alameda Health System



NARCISA FROM BRONX, NY

Cornell University '12: Implementation Manager at the NYC Department of Education



SAMUEL FROM BROWNSVILLE, TX

Massachusetts Institute of Technology '12: Legislative Aid at the U.S. House of Representatives



BREIA FROM MEMPHIS, TN

Emory University '16: Clinical Research Interviewer at Emory University School of Medicine, Neurology Department



EDGAR FROM LOS ANGELES, CA

Harvard University '16: Android Software Engineer at CoStar Group

College Enrollment 2017

As classified by Barron's
Profiles of American Colleges



Ivy League	32%
Most Competitive	51%
Highly Competitive	5%
Very Competitive	8%
Competitive/Other	5%

IVY LEAGUE 256

Brown University	24
Columbia University	10
Cornell University	9
Dartmouth College	15
Harvard University	33
Princeton University	115
University of Pennsylvania	20
Yale University	30

MOST COMPETITIVE 409

Amherst College	10
Barnard College	12
Boston College	12
Boston University	1
Bowdoin College	2
Brandeis University	1
Bryn Mawr College	5
Carleton College	2
Carnegie Mellon University	6
Case Western Reserve	2
Colgate University	5
Colorado College	1
Davidson College	12
Duke University	6
Emory University	7
Franklin & Marshall College	2
Georgetown University	35
Harvey Mudd College	1
Haverford College	5
Johns Hopkins University	11
Lehigh University	1
Lewis and Clark College	1
Macalester College	2
MIT	18
Middlebury College	9
Mount Holyoke College	4
New York University	4
Northwestern University	8

Oberlin College	1
Occidental College	16
Olin College of Engineering	1
Pitzer College	3
Pomona College	8
Reed College	6
Rice University	11
Scripps College	1
Smith College	8
Stanford University	69
Swarthmore College	14
Tufts University	8
Tulane University	1
U.S. Air Force Academy	2
Union College	1
UC Berkeley	4
UCLA	5
UNC Chapel Hill	7

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities	1
University of Notre Dame	4
University of Richmond	11
USC	3
Vanderbilt University	3
Vassar College	3
Wake Forest University	1
Washington University in St. Louis	12
Wellesley College	4
Wesleyan University	9
Whitman College	1
Williams College	4
Worcester Polytechnic Institute	1

HIGHLY COMPETITIVE 38

Babson College	1
Bard College – Annandale-on-Hudson	1
Beloit College	1
Bentley University	1
Christian Brothers University	1
Denison University	1
Emerson College	1
Gettysburg College	1
Loyola University of New Orleans	1
Michigan State University	1
Muhlenberg College	1

Rutgers University Honors Program	1
Santa Clara University	1
Sarah Lawrence College	1
Sewanee	1
Skidmore College	2
Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education at CUNY	2
Southwestern University	1
St. Mary's University	1
SUNY Binghamton	1
SUNY Stony Brook	1
Texas A&M University	2
Trinity University (TX)	1
UC Davis	3
UMD College Park	2
University of Puget Sound	2
University of Texas, Austin	5

VERY COMPETITIVE 57

Biola University	1
Colorado State University Ft. Collins	1
CUNY Baruch College	1
CUNY Macaulay Honors College	3
DePauw University	11
Florida Institute of Technology	1
George Mason University	1
Georgia State University	1
Ithaca College	1
Louisiana State University	1
Mercer University	1
Mills College	1
North Central College	1
Polytechnic Institute of NYU	1
Rochester Institute of Technology	1
San Diego State University	1
Spelman College	4
St. Edward's University	1
Stephens College	1
SUNY Albany	1
SUNY Fredonia	1
SUNY Oswego	1
UC Santa Cruz	1
UMass Amherst	1
University of Arkansas	3

University of Denver	1
University of Hawaii – Manoa	1
University of Louisville	2
University of Missouri St. Louis	1
University of South Carolina at Columbia	1
University of Tennessee Knoxville	1
University of the Pacific	2
University of Washington	2
Wabash College	1
Westminster College	1
Willamette University	1

COMPETITIVE & OTHER 39

Adelphi University	1
Alabama A&M University	1
Albright College	1
Arkansas State University	1
CUNY Brooklyn College	1
CUNY City College	1
CUNY College of Staten Island	1
Guilford College	4
Howard University	2
LA. Trade Technical College	1
Middle Tennessee State University	1
Mississippi State University	1
Morehouse College	1
North Park University	1
Northern Arizona University	1
Northern Illinois University	1
Our Lady of the Lake University	1
Rhode Island College	1
San Joaquin Delta College	1
Seton Hall University	1
Southern Illinois University	1
St. John's University	2
Texas Tech University	2
The College of Idaho	1
University of Central Florida	1
University of Kansas	1
University of Louisville	1
University of Minnesota	1
University of Nebraska	1
University of Texas at Brownsville	1
University of Wyoming	1
Wichita State University	1