

Cohort 13 College Admissions

Another outstanding year of college admissions results at LEDA! Our Cohort of 100 Scholars received outstanding news in March as they were notified of their admission to many of the top colleges in the United States.

97% of Cohort 13 was admitted to at least one “Most Competitive” institution, as classified by Barron’s *Profiles of American Colleges*, including 70% who were admitted to at least one Ivy League school, MIT, or Stanford. This tremendous news builds on our success in the early application process at the end of 2017, during which 41 Scholars were admitted to a Most Competitive school, as featured recently in *The Washington Post* (see page 3 for more details).

“Without the assistance and guidance of LEDA, I would have never considered the possibility of applying to an Ivy League university, much less being accepted to one,” wrote one Cohort 13 Scholar. “My future would have been merely a shadow of what I now have the chance to achieve.”

This year’s results follow a tradition of exceptional outcomes in supporting some of our nation’s most talented students gain access to and succeed at institutions where they can develop their leadership skills. Since the expansion of the LEDA Scholars Program in 2015 from 60 to 100 new Scholars recruited annually, 98% of Scholars have been admitted to a Most Competitive institution.

As part of LEDA’s comprehensive approach to college guidance, our staff continued to work with Cohort 13 Scholars after they received their admission offers. LEDA counselors helped Scholars to consider a number of factors, such as financial aid packages and impressions from campus visits, in choosing where to spend the next four years. Stay tuned for our next newsletter to see their full matriculation results.

Congratulations, Cohort 13!



LEDA Cohort 13 Scholars Tristen, Jade, and Antonio were admitted to some of the top colleges in the nation, including Brown, Pomona, Princeton, Stanford, and Wash U.

97%

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LEAST ONE MOST
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COLLEGE

70%

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OR STANFORD



Cohort 13 Scholars set ambitious goals on the first day of their LEDA Summer Institute last year – and achieved them

31

PRINCETON
UNIVERSITY



31

STANFORD
UNIVERSITY



19

FRANKLIN &
MARSHALL
COLLEGE



18

BROWN
UNIVERSITY



18

UNIVERSITY
OF RICHMOND



16

EMORY
UNIVERSITY



14

YALE
UNIVERSITY



13

GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY



13

HARVARD
UNIVERSITY



2018 LEDA Reception

On January 30, nearly 300 LEDA Scholars, staff, and supporters gathered to celebrate an extraordinary year at our 2018 Reception.

This annual event brings together new friends and long-time supporters of the LEDA Community, and, this year, the event raised nearly \$440,000 to support our nation's future leaders. This year's honoree was Rosanna Durruthy, Head of Global Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging at LinkedIn, who has dedicated her career to expanding opportunities for leaders from diverse backgrounds. "I'm proud of LEDA," said Rosanna. "[Your Scholars] make a difference in this world – each and every one of them...They help each other, and they help a community that often struggles to provide resources. They are the beacons and role models who illuminate the streets they walk on."

The program featured LEDA Cohort 12 Scholars Sarah (Princeton '21) and William (University of Richmond '21) as our hosts for the evening, as well as remarks from Cohort 2 Scholar Jessica (Dartmouth '12, Tufts Medicine '19) and Cohort 10 Scholar Philip (Pitzer '19). Both Scholars reflected on how LEDA has changed the course of their lives. "LEDA invested in me, helped me get a foot in the door, redirected my limited vision to a broader horizon, and provided me with resources to succeed," said Jessica.

Videos of our Scholars, honoree, and the evening's highlights are available on our YouTube channel at youtube.com/LEDAScholars, and additional photos are available on our website at ledascholars.org/reception2018.



LEDA Scholars Sarah and William present a LEDA award to honoree Rosanna Durruthy



Jessica and Philip, this year's LEDA Scholar speakers



LEDA is grateful to our 2018 LEDA Reception sponsors for their support. We also would like to offer special thanks to our LEDA Dean sponsor, **Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP**, for its enduring dedication to helping under-resourced communities.

LEDA Leadership: New Faces at LEDA

LEDA is excited to welcome the newest members of our Board of Directors.



Holly Ash was raised and educated in the U.K. She was a Vice President in Equity Derivatives at Goldman Sachs before becoming a private investor and entrepreneur, founding Return.vc and Lab25 to provide opportunity to young entrepreneurs with a focus on impact investing and women-owned businesses.



Gustavo Gonzalez is a Managing Partner of Gravel Creek Asset Management. He has also served as Partner and COO of Precision Path Capital, Executive Vice-President of the Libra Group, and an Investment Banking Analyst at Lehman Brothers.

LEDA News

Learn more about exciting developments at LEDA!



Cohort 6 Scholar Sayra Alanís



Cohort 14 will join a diverse community



LEDA Scholars speak out

[LEDA in the *Washington Post*](#)

LEDA was recently featured in two articles by veteran journalist Nick Anderson in the *Washington Post* for our distinct approach – and outstanding success – in helping Scholars pursue higher education and develop their leadership skills.

[“Where I’m from, a lot of teenagers ...feel as if we are not enough. LEDA had a different narrative for me,”](#) said LEDA Cohort 11 Scholar Eriana (Georgetown University '20).

Thousands of students lack access to the information and support systems necessary to apply to, gain admission to, and thrive at top colleges that can best nurture their potential as leaders. LEDA recognizes this gap and emphasizes exposure, personalized advising, and community-building among LEDA Scholars as powerful and effective resources for helping Scholars succeed.

[Welcome, Cohort 14!](#)

In April, LEDA completed our annual admission process, selecting the next Cohort of 100 Scholars from a pool of more than 1,250 applicants.

We are excited to meet the newest members of the LEDA Community, including Franklyn, from Ketchikan, AK, this June at the *Aspects of Leadership* Summer Institute on the Princeton University campus. [“Both Franklyn and I are convinced this will absolutely change the course of his life,”](#) said Robert McClory, his high school guidance counselor. [“You have an amazing young scholar, citizen, and leader in Franklyn.”](#)

Cohort 14 includes high school juniors from 40 states, including our first two Scholars from North Dakota. Our newest Scholars have an average GPA of 3.92 and an average household income of \$34,230. We are excited to welcome them into the LEDA Community, which now includes nearly 1,000 Scholars!

[LEDA Policy Project](#)

Thanks to a transformative investment from Lumina Foundation, LEDA has launched the LEDA Policy Project, which seeks to train and position young leaders from underrepresented backgrounds to lend their voices to federal policy discussions pertaining to postsecondary education. [“LEDA Scholars are among the most compelling young people I’ve met,”](#) said Terri Taylor, deputy director at Lumina Foundation. [“We are so pleased to support LEDA’s expanded work in federal policy.”](#)

The Policy Project advances LEDA’s mission to prepare the next generation of diverse leaders by training a core group of LEDA Scholars to become well-versed on the federal policy process and equipped to discuss the impact of federal education policies on their personal journeys to and through higher education. This will build on LEDA’s mission of empowering those from underrepresented backgrounds and ensuring that diverse voices are at the table where decisions are made.



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Gerstner Family Foundation underwrites LEDA Career Institute

LEDA is thrilled to report that the Gerstner Family Foundation will underwrite the 2018 LEDA Career Institute, expanding a partnership that began in 2015. **“This transformative investment is one-of-a-kind,”** said LEDA Executive Director Beth Breger. **“We couldn’t express our gratitude enough for the Gerstner Family Foundation’s leadership and commitment to LEDA as we seek to advance career opportunities for our nation’s future leaders.”**

Gerstner Family Foundation’s Chairman Louis V. Gerstner, Jr., shares how his undergraduate experience shaped his interest in helping students explore professional pathways: **“I learned that there was a whole other set of skills I needed to have a successful career after college...My education was invaluable, but what I learned outside of the classroom was just as important for my success.”** The Foundation was also the lead funder of the 2017 pilot Career Institute, which was an overwhelming success with **58% of LEDA Career Fellows citing a change in their career interests**. Since then, LEDA has conducted 150+ career advising sessions with Career Fellows, many of whom will spend their summer interning at Bloomberg L.P., Capital One, Facebook, GE, Goldman Sachs, Google, IBM, ideas42, JPMorgan Chase, Microsoft, and Morgan Stanley.



Career Fellows attend last year’s Career Institute

The 2018 five-day Career Institute will be held in August at Princeton University with a new class of 150+ LEDA Career Fellows. It is the signature component of the **LEDA Career Network**, an initiative that provides high-achieving, low-income students with career exploration, professional development, and career advising.