



David Gergen Summer Fellowship Program

The David Gergen Summer Fellowship Program honors David Gergen, the founding director of the Center for Public Leadership and a long-time mentor and supporter of Harvard Kennedy School students for more than two decades. The fellowship was established in recognition of David's extraordinary commitment to developing the capacity for principled, effective public leadership and in appreciation of the critical role "learning by doing" plays in leadership development.

This highly competitive program supports trailblazing public service and leadership opportunities, enabling a select number of Harvard Kennedy School students to gain meaningful, practical, hands-on experience and develop important networks through summer internships in government or nonprofit service.

The Gergen Summer Fellowship provides financial support through stipends to cover living and work-related travel expenses during a 10-week summer internship in public service or the nonprofit sector. In addition to stipends, Gergen Summer Fellows receive tailored mentorship and internship search support. They also join a cohort of passionate public servants who meet regularly to build community and develop leadership habits and skills.

Harvard Kennedy School students returning for the 2025-2026 academic year are invited to apply.

"The nation needs you; indeed, the world needs you. We need leaders of character and honor. We need you to step into the arena, your hearts touched with fire."

David Gergen
Hearts Touched with Fire: How Great Leaders Are Made

Center for Public Leadership
Harvard Kennedy School
79 John F. Kennedy Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

"This fellowship program is an opportunity to honor David and his legacy and impact through service and leadership by creating opportunities for students to have impactful roles in government and nonprofit organizations."

Graves Tompkins
MPA/MBA 2008, CPL Leadership Council Member



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the David Gergen Summer
Fellowship Program

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