Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Summer Institute

Purdue University

One of two 2013 Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows Summer Institutes is offered at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, for 45 students, ages 16-18. The Institute will host 35 students from Europe along with 10 competitively-selected teens from across the United States. The four-week Institute will take place June 30-July 27, 2013.

The American statesman and diplomat Benjamin Franklin is the inspiration for this program. He was a man that prized religious tolerance over intolerance and social mobility over class privilege, and was a firm believer in free speech. Mr. Franklin practiced what he preached by establishing, editing, and writing newspapers expounding on this principle. Purdue University will provide participants training in leadership development through activities that advance the goals established and followed by Mr. Franklin in his lifetime. The overarching theme of this Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellows (BFTF) Summer Institute will be global issues, with a transatlantic focus. Through this lens, the participants will explore democratic practices, civic engagement, community service, conflict resolution, critical thinking and analysis, respect for diversity, and youth leadership. Activities will include case studies, group discussions, role-plays and simulations, workshops, leadership and media training, collaborative project development, community service, and educational travel to Philadelphia and Washington, DC. All participants will live in homestays with American families for a portion of the program, and will spend most of the rest of their time on campus at Purdue. Follow-on activities in their home communities are a critical component of the program as the alumni apply what they have learned in a productive way.

By the end of this intense four-week program, the participants will:

- demonstrate more comprehensive knowledge of the United States and Europe;
- experience guided discussions, debates, simulations, and other activities that develop critical thinking;
- gain an understanding of the intersection of politics and science;
- learn conflict resolution techniques;
- learn to develop in their schools and communities outreach activities related to the topics presented in the course of the program;
- be able to conduct community needs assessment, and organize and promote community services;
- learn to develop and organize civic projects to influence public policy;
- demonstrate qualities of critical consumers and producers of media; and
- continue and expand contacts with Institute alumni and with their peers in other countries.
Project Activities

Orientation
Purdue University (Purdue) will provide orientation materials for the American and European participants. The materials will be provided to participants online or via the U.S. embassy. The materials will contain an overview of the program, provide needed forms (informational, health, housing, etc), and introduce staff members.

An arrival orientation with all Fellows and Institute staff will be conducted the first day to introduce the Institute administration and present the Institute activities as well as to review safety and residence hall rules.

Institute
The Institute offers a combination of interactive classes, seminars, workshops, webinars, and teleconferences presented by prominent scholars and specialists in international relations, diplomacy, communication, media, civic education, and science.

The program will consist of five modules, each representing a component of Benjamin Franklin’s legacy:

A. International Relations & Diplomacy Module
B. Media & Communication Module
C. Civic Education & Democratic Citizenship Module
D. Science Module
E. Service & Volunteerism Module

Each module is comprised of a set of thematic presentations, workshops, seminars, panel discussions, site visits, and other interactive activities, conducted by highly qualified faculty, graduate students, and area specialists.

Mentors will guide teams of Fellows through the Institute activities. Fellows will have regular debriefings with project staff to summarize daily activities, ask questions, and provide evaluative feedback.

Academic activities
The academic component of the program will include:

- Presentations by Purdue University faculty
- Panel discussions with guest speakers, including U.S. Senator Richard Lugar: Nuclear Weapon Proliferation, Carolyn Curiel (former ambassador to Belize and speechwriter in President Clinton’s administration): Public vs. Private Diplomacy, Brian Lamb, founder and CEO of C-SPAN, Joe Micon, Executive Director, Lafayette Urban Ministry: The Role of Volunteerism
- Simulations and role games (e.g., United Nations simulation; conflict resolution)
- Group discussion and debates (e.g., What it Means to Be a Good Citizen, Should We Trust Media, Evolution or Intelligent Design)
- Group projects (e.g., Project Citizen; This is Our Life Newspaper)
• **Practical workshops and seminars** (e.g., *How to Develop a Community Project, Starting Your Own Medium*).

**Site visits**
The Fellows will visit **Indianapolis**, where they will tour the Indiana State House, meet with Indiana State Representative Sheila Klinker, and learn about federalism and how state government works. Other civic education-related site visits take place in **Washington** and **Philadelphia** (Independence Hall and National Constitution Center). In **Chicago**, the Fellows will visit the Museum of Science and Industry and the Museum of Broadcast Communication. Other site visits will include:

- **Lafayette/Tippecanoe County**: Lafayette mayor’s office; The Exponent, student newspaper; local TV station; McCutcheon High School;
- **Indianapolis**: city tour, Indiana War Memorial, Indiana State Museum;
- **Chicago**: city tour, Shedd Aquarium, Willis Tower; Millennium Park
- **Washington**: city tour, Capitol Hill tour, U.S. Department of State, Smithsonian Institutions, Newseum interactive museum; and the Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- **Philadelphia**: Franklin’s Philadelphia city tour, Franklin Institute.

**Community Service**
Community service is a central theme of one of the modules. Fellows will have the opportunity to volunteer in community projects such as mentoring children, raising funds for a Children's Hospital, food bank participation, an international bazaar fundraiser, and other charitable activities. The Institute will include a panel discussion about the importance and organization of community service. All Fellows will participate in **Project Citizen** to develop socially important projects for their communities.

**Cultural and social activities**
Institute cultural and social activities will include

- A **July 4th Independence Day picnic**
- **International Cultures Night with artistic presentations**
- **International Bazaar including charity fund-raising by Fellows**
- **Visits to the Black Cultural Center and Latino Cultural Center**
- **Movie nights**
- A **final creative arts project about new knowledge the Fellows have acquired about the United States and the other participating countries.**
- **Fellows will have free access to all Purdue University sport facilities, including gym, swimming pool, and recreational pool.**

**Schedule**

**Sunday, June 30** – Participants arrive at the Institute

**Week 1: July 1-7:**
Campus orientations
Welcome reception
International Relations & Diplomacy Module classes
Communication & Media Module classes
4th of July picnic
Social and cultural events

**Week 2: July 8 – 14:**
International Relations & Diplomacy Module classes
Communication & Media Module classes
Civic Education Module classes
Trip to Indianapolis
Reception for Institute fellows and host families
Fellows move to host families (July 13)
Social and cultural events

**Week 3: July 15 – 21:**
Community service
Civic Education Module classes
Science Module classes
Trip to Chicago
International Bazaar
Visit to McCutcheon High School
Social and cultural events

**Week 4: July 22 – July 27:**
Final project presentations
Farewell reception
Trip to Washington D.C. (July 23 – 27)
Visit to State Department
Trip to Philadelphia (July 25)

**Fellows return home on July 27.**

**Housing**
The Fellows will stay in a residence hall on the Purdue campus under the supervision of Resident Assistants. Fellows will be housed two to a room; each room will be equipped with a laptop with free Internet access.

Participants will be housed in homestays with carefully screened local families for ten days, including two weekends.

**Follow-on Activities**
The components of the Institute are designed to be applied and shared once the Fellows return home. Purdue staff will guide the Fellows in designing follow-on projects that will address a need in their home communities and will assist with advice and mini-grants.

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