The Barger Leadership Institute

THE POWER

The Barger Leadership Institute (BLI) equips students to confidently face the challenges of leadership in the 21st century. Students use BLI leadership development programs to help them achieve their goals on campus and as alumni, translating their academic knowledge into action wherever their careers take them. Students define the problems they wish to address, and through their participation in BLI programming, they articulate and implement compelling solutions that merge their intellectual passions and personal goals into effective action. BLI activities are designed to draw students from all over campus and deeply engage them in collaborative projects within safe bounds where failure is as powerful a teacher as success. Experiential leadership education is driven by the needs and concerns of our students, and through these productive relationships individuals work to learn.

Our largest-ever fundraising campaign is ambitious, visionary, purposeful — worthy of the name “Victors.” The $400 million goal is built upon the cornerstone of the liberal arts: the idea that a powerful, pragmatic education can transform hearts and minds, can solve problems in a changing world, can yield ideas and innovation across every discipline. That’s why we are focused on raising money so that the best and brightest minds can have access to the College through robust scholarship support, no matter their financial circumstances. So too are we committed to helping every student acquire not just knowledge in the classroom, but experiences outside the academy including innovative entrepreneurial efforts and internships. We strive to support our faculty on the front-lines of research, and steward our planet, our community, our campus. To do all this, and so much more, the College needs you — because the world needs Victors.
THE OPPORTUNITIES

BLI offers students guidance and support through a flexible program where undergraduates define their own paths, goals, and levels of engagement. Once nominated for inclusion in BLI, students participate in community events, BLI Habit workshops, Leadership Labs, and other activities that deepen their understanding of self and others. That practical knowledge enhances the ways in which they come to know their peers as resources in their own development as leaders.

BLI Habits are central to the program because students learn and internalize them, drawing on those skills when they face new situations. Through a culture of open and inclusive experiences, BLI fosters reflection on leadership principles. As BLI members — and eventually as BLI Fellows — students may apply for funding to support their projects, from inception all the way through capstone projects and internships. Because participants drive their progression through the stages of the program, each experience is individualized.

With limited constraints on what students can do, the BLI process helps students learn how to work effectively, and supports projects and activities in all fields on all topics. In the last 10 years, the BLI has supported technology startups and art projects, international development efforts, and campus activities designed to improve the student experience. A BLI student team called “Students for Educational Equality” recruited and trained undergraduate volunteers to provide effective college test preparation to local high school students. Their work was recognized by the Obama Administration, which chose them as one of just 12 finalists from among more than 30,000 projects submitted to the White House Campus Champions for Change competition.

THE IMPACT

The BLI depends on grants, gifts, and support from friends and alumni. The unique strength of leadership education at the University of Michigan is based on broad academic excellence, bright, passionate students, and the wisdom of engaged alumni. We have already guided 650 undergraduates from across the university through experiential leadership development. In the next five years our leadership program will help up to 1,200 young scholars each year become effective leaders in all walks of life. We provide flexible and transformative academic experiences through leadership grants, fellowships, internships, skills seminars, small group coaching, and global experiences.
STUDENT PROJECT SUPPORT
$80,000 annually to fully fund project grant program each year

Gifts support BLI Fellows in project opportunities that include grants for small, team, project, or capstone programs. Small Project Grants are $200 micro-finance funds for early stage leadership development opportunities. Leadership Lab Team Grants allow teams of students $200 to execute the project ideas they generate in this Applied Liberal Arts class. Student Project Grants offer up to $1,500 for BLI Fellow-led teams to test out ideas, innovate, and cultivate their passions to impact the world. Capstone for Evidence-Based Leadership Program Grants provide sustaining funding of up to $10,000 so teams of students can collect and analyze real-world data to make decisions. Gifts also can be given to support individual grant awards.

- Small Project Grants: $200 each for 25 students/$5,000 annually
- Leadership Lab Team Grants: $200 each for about 63 teams/$12,500 annually
- Student Project Grants: $1,500 each for 15 students/$22,500 annually
- Capstone Leaderships Program Grants: $10,000 each for 4 teams/$40,000 annually

WORKSHOPS AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS
$10,000 annually

BLI Fellows further develop their leadership skills by engaging in BLI student community events, which include skills sessions, BLI Habit workshops, and Leadership Labs. Designed to strengthen and engage a broad BLI audience, these workshops and sessions provide practical, tangible skills like résumé writing, etiquette, and networking skills or exercises that solidify BLI Habits. Support is needed for costs associated with these important offerings.

LEADERSHIP INTERNSHIPS
$3,000 each / $30,000 for 10 students annually

BLI encourages Fellows to engage in the vital hands-on learning that happens when academia meets the career world. Through internships, students gain confidence, skills, and understanding of the complexities of work environments, and are exposed to new ideas and perspectives. For internships with a substantial leadership development component, BLI will provide scholarship funding to offset the costs of participation.

ADVANCED FELLOWS PROGRAM
$100,000 annually

BLI Fellows who show a high level of commitment are invited to apply for the Advanced Fellows Program. These dedicated scholars will have additional opportunities for funding as well as leadership development throughout the BLI community. They will participate in an intensive weekend retreat exclusively for the BLI Advanced Fellows. Individualized coaching directs them to integrate all aspects of their Michigan experience into passionate pursuit of their goals as they develop personalized leadership plans. $100,000 will support a cohort of 30 students each year.

PROGRAM STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FUND
$10,000 annually

Gifts support the ability for the BLI to be nimble and take advantage of unplanned opportunities that further the mission of the program. This discretionary fund enables the development of pilot programs, marketing and communications, stewardship support, public events, and faculty engagement.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT
Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.