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VICTORS

# The Barger Leadership Institute

## THE POWER

The Barger Leadership Institute (BLI) is a student-powered, faculty-guided community dedicated to developing leadership learning through engaged liberal arts education. Future generations of Michigan leaders will face a complex, volatile, and ambiguous world where problems of global scope affect even the most local decisions, and effective solutions require collaborations that span competing interests, sectors, and nations. Making a difference will require versatile leadership skills, cosmopolitan sensibilities, innovative mindsets, and the ability to embrace, evaluate, and act in challenging new situations. The BLI helps prepare Michigan students to face these 21st century demands by uniting active alumni, passionate undergraduates, dedicated faculty and staff in diverse experiences that reach beyond the conventional classroom.

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 frontlines 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 undergraduate students guidance and support through a flexible program where students from various degree programs can define their own path to leadership.

### ● **Phase 1: Member**

BLI members participate in our 7-week Leadership Lab, student-led lunch workshops, access to small grants, community events, and other cross-campus activities that deepen their understanding of self and reflection on leadership principles.

### ● **Phase 2: Fellow**

BLI fellows – members who have completed the Leadership Lab – have access to mid-sized project grants, a leadership retreat, and exclusive access opportunities with Michigan Alumni.

### ● **Phase 3: High Impact Involvement**

BLI fellows can pursue intensive, individualized leadership coaching through the Advanced Fellows Program, access paid student leadership positions, and/or cultivate evidence-based leadership skills in the BLI Capstone Experience.



## 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 built upon broad academic excellence, bright, passionate students, and the wisdom of our alumni. By 2020 our leadership program will help 1,200 young scholars each year become effective leaders in all walks of life.

***Endowed gifts of \$100,000 or more to BLI will be recognized with the opportunity to name a space in Weiser Hall.***

## ADVANCED FELLOWS PROGRAM

### **\$100,000 annually**

BLI Fellows who show a high level of dedicated scholarship and commitment to personal growth are invited to apply for the Advanced Fellows Program. Advanced fellows meet regularly with staff mentors to craft their individual leadership plan and receive feedback and guidance. Gifts to this program support this intensive, individualized support along with a multi-day off-site retreat where advanced fellows discuss leadership topics and connect with other members of their cohort.

## STUDENT PROJECT SUPPORT

### **\$125,000 annually**

Gifts to this fund seed short- to long-term student projects that contribute to the Institute, campus community, and/or society. Funding opportunities are available to BLI students at every phase of membership to meet the needs of students where they are and stimulate leadership learning:

#### ■ **Small Project Grants: \$5,000 annually**

With a rolling application deadline and speedy review process, 25 small grants of \$200 support a BLI member or group in their short-term projects or events.

#### ■ **Student Project Grants: \$20,000 annually**

Up to 15 BLI Fellow-led teams can apply for up to \$1,500 to test out ideas, innovate, and cultivate their passions to impact the world.



■ **Capstone Experience: \$100,000 annually**

This program awards up to \$10,000 to 10 high-achieving, BLI Fellow-led teams who use critical thinking skills to engage in real-life problem solving. Teams receive year-round mentorship, conduct research and analysis on relevant data, and bring their project visions to life.

*Capstone funding inspires a variety of student-led passion projects such as:*

**UM Intelligent Ground Vehicle (IGV) Team:** A new student design team worked to pilot an introduction to robotics course, create a student-led robotics group at U-M, and create the first autonomous ground vehicle to compete at an IGV competition at Oakland University.

**Mythbusting our Biases:** In an effort to identify one’s biases and encourage cultural competence, one student team hosted “Diners in the Dark” where participants shared dinner and conversation blindfolded in an effort to challenge perceptions and engage in thoughtful discussions about biases on campus.

**Quirk:** Looking to reduce food waste, this team sourced “ugly” fruits to create a beverage, Quirk Tart Tea & Fruit Elixir, which supports a healthy diet. Students conducted market research on this growing beverage industry, sourced producers, and conducted consumer research on flavor and marketing.



gift will enable the development of pilot programs, workshops on resume writing, etiquette and networking, targeted outreach initiatives to students, stewardship of donors and curriculum partners, and faculty engagement.

**WORKSHOPS AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS**

**Access Opportunities**

**\$30,000 annually**

Access opportunity trips feature alumni shadowing experiences as well as social and professional events designed to introduce BLI students to the unique leadership opportunities and challenges in a particular city or region. These 4-7 day trips can be the highlight of a student’s career at Michigan.

**PROGRAM STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**\$100,000 annually**

For the BLI to be nimble and take advantage of leadership opportunities that further our mission, discretionary funds are a much needed and necessary part of daily operations. Your

**BLI STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS**

**\$90,000 annually for 30 students**

Through paid leadership positions, BLI Fellows gain confidence, skills, and a better understanding of the complexities of work environment. Gifts toward this fund will support 30 students working with BLI and earning up to \$3,000 per year.

- **Peer Facilitators (20):** Students who have completed the 7-week Leadership Lab participate in designing course content, lead discussions, and offer support to students.
- **Program Assistants (10):** Students serve as a liaison between program staff and students, and ensure student-integration into almost all aspects of the BLI’s operations.

**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.

**CONTACT INFO**