



## The Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution's **Political Leadership Academy** in partnership with the Bipartisan Leadership Project

Apply for our  
hybrid fellowship held  
from March 16- May 4,  
2024

### *Politics of Decision-Making Fellowship: Conflict, Resolution, and Cooperation*

Political Leadership Academy Fellows learn from and dialogue with scholarly and practical thought leaders regarding conflict resolution in the American political context. Throughout our course, we'll cover:

- Strengthening and preserving democracy
- Conflict resolution strategies for collaboration
- Personal and professional communication skills
- Leadership in public policy

#### **What We'll Accomplish**

Fellows will be equipped with ideas and skills to respond to contemporary American political conflicts. Sessions will include presentations from scholars and practitioners with an emphasis on group dynamics and networking. Participants will build foundations of understanding from a diverse set of professional and personal backgrounds and will develop contacts with a dynamic cohort of participants who are passionate about unity and problem-solving. Participants will also gain membership in our alumni organization, which holds engaging events exclusively for Political Leadership Academy alumni.

#### **Featured Speakers**

- **Keith Allred**- Executive Director, National Institute for Civil Discourse
- **Charles Davidson, Ph.D**- Director, Political Leadership Academy
- **The Honorable Tom Davis**- Former Virginia Congressman
- **Justin Gest, Ph.D**- Professor of Policy and Government at George Mason University
- **Leo Hylton**- Alliance for Higher Education in Prison
- **Thomas Little, Ph.D**- Director of Curriculum Development and Research, State Legislative Leaders Foundation
- **The Honorable Stephanie Murphy**- Former Florida Congresswoman
- **Dean Alpaslan Özerdem**- Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution
- **Nicole Rowsell**- Former Vice President, National Democratic Institute
- **Andy Shallal**- CEO of Busboys and Poets
- **Russell Wigginton**- President, National Civil Rights Museum

## Dates & Session Times

Sessions occur 10:00am to 2:30pm **in-person** at GMU on Saturdays and 6:00pm-7:30pm **virtually** on Thursdays:

**Saturday, March 16th**  
**Saturday, March 23rd**  
**Thursday, March 28th**  
**Saturday, April 6th**  
**Thursday, April 11th**

**Saturday, April 20th**  
**Thursday, April 25th**  
**Thursday, May 2nd**  
**Saturday, May 4th**

## Tuition

Early Application Tuition: \$1,950 (For registration by February 16th)

Standard Tuition: \$2,500

Scholarships: Available with needs-based consideration. Please contact [jdonahu@gmu.edu](mailto:jdonahu@gmu.edu) for more details.

## Apply Now

To apply, please fill out the application **HERE**, visit our website at:

<https://pla.carterschool.gmu.edu/> or contact Julianna Donahue, PLA Program Assistant at [jdonahu@gmu.edu](mailto:jdonahu@gmu.edu).

## Course Content and Goals

Through engagement with the PLA's guest speakers and instructors, you will learn and expand on conflict resolution and political leadership skills. In the past, our speakers have included Carter School instructors, community and civic leaders, and elected officials.

### Conflict Resolution:

- Understanding Types of Conflict
- Conflict Identification and Analysis
- Context and Listening
- Negotiation
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
- Cooperation and Collaboration

### Political Leadership:

- Understanding Political Conflict
- Personal Communication Skills
- Ethics, Authenticity, and Trust
- Leading in Volatile Environments
- Political Cooperation and Effectiveness
- Common Ground
- Political Courage
- Pluralism in a American Democracy

*When confronting contemporary problems as a leader in the community, understanding conflict and how to think about it is foundational for finding resolution today and in the future.*

-Jon Stehle, Council Member  
City of Fairfax



*The PLA offered an invaluable opportunity to collaborate with others, analyze conflict resolution barriers and consider various viewpoints. I know this experience will assist me in both my professional and political endeavors*

-Karen Keys Gamarra, Esq.  
Fairfax County  
School Board Member at Large

