

## **Texas Leadership Forum**

### **Program Overview for Students, Parents and School Officials**

**SPONSOR:** The Texas Leadership Forum (TLF) is a program of the Today Foundation, a 501(c)(3)

**PURPOSE:** The Texas Leadership Forum will seek to foster civic involvement, leadership and character building in high school students while educating them about government and public policy.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** TLF Board members consist of community leaders chosen by the Today Foundation are Carol Clyde, Director, Leadership and Community Involvement, Southern Methodist University; Edwin Flores, Trustee District 1, Dallas Independent School District; Randall Goss, Chairman/CEO, U.S. Risk Insurance Group, Inc.; Flora Hernandez, community leader; Chris Langmayer, Vice President, Veolia Transportation; Kathleen Leos, Global Institute for Language & Literacy Development, CEO; Christine Ortega, Southwest Airlines; Erin Patton, CEO, The Mastermind Group; Frank J. Rosello, Bank of America, Vice President; Mark Shank, Gruber Hurst Johansen Hail; Danny Smith, Public Affairs Director, UPS; Hon. Michael Williams, Commissioner for the Railroad Commission of Texas; Gary Griffith, President, Today Foundation; Congressman Pete Sessions, Honorary Chairman.

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR:** The director of the TLF will be a teacher or person in the education field who will be selected by the Today Foundation. The program director for 2010 is Debbie Horres.

**PARTICIPANTS:** Participants will be U.S. citizens who have completed their sophomore year in high school and attend school in North Texas.

**SELECTION PROCESS:** A girl and boy will be chosen from each participating North Texas high school based on academic performance, community involvement and leadership ability. Applications will include a resume, three one-page essays and a letter of recommendation by a teacher, principal, counselor or community leader. Students must pass background checks prior to selection.

**Class of 2010 2011:** Adan Gonzalez, Adamson HS; Emmanuel Tamayo, Adamson HS; Danielle Huerta, Adamson HS; Courtney Crawford, Conrad HS; Hollie Edwards, Conrad HS; Bree Chatman, Irving HS; Areli Ramos-Morales, Irving HS; Yoel Zehaie, Lake Highlands HS; Jordan Shelton, Nimitz HS; Erika Minshall, Nimitz HS; Toby Renteria, Jr., Sunset HS; Virgi Moreno, Sunset HS; Isaiah Rice, W.T. White HS; Greer Gardner, W. T. White HS; Harvey Tovar, Jr., Woodrow Wilson HS.

**EXPECTATIONS:** TLF participants will be required to.

- Attend TLF events including five local meetings and the Washington, D.C. conference.
- Complete all assignments.
- Be respectful representatives of their school and community.
- Report to their school in September 2011, if possible, on what they learned from the TLF experience.

**MEETINGS:** Meetings will be held on Sunday afternoons up to five times a school year at various locations sponsored by hosts. Events will be opportunities for students to meet and interact with local professionals, business men and women, elected officials and community leaders.

**WASHINGTON, D.C. VISIT:** Participants will attend a one-week conference in Washington, D.C. where they will take part in substantive meetings, briefings, and presentations. They will attend committee hearings, sessions of Congress and visit offices on the Hill. The goal is to provide broad exposure to the inner-workings of government and life in the nation's capital.

**FUNDING:**

- **Local Events:** Meetings will be sponsored by area businesses and local colleges/universities, so there is no cost to the students.
- **Washington, D.C. Visit:** The estimated cost per student for the D.C. trip is \$2500 and will be funded entirely by corporate and community sponsors. There will be no cost to the students.