

# Christian Leaders Program

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Leadership  
Institute

Where Conservative Leaders are Made





Leadership  
Institute

Matthew 4: 29-30  
I have no peace, and there was a great calm. Then he said to them, "What are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

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Matthew 4: 29-30

Dear Conservative Friend,

Through your support of the Leadership Institute's Christian Leaders Program, you provide Christian students with the skills to defend conservative principles.

Your Leadership Institute launched the Christian Leaders Program in 2022 as an expansion of LI's campus programs. This specific program mentors young conservative Christians to help them launch successful careers in politics and media.

Thanks to you, 2024 was the best year yet for the Christian Leaders Program.

I asked my staff to assemble this special report so that you can see for yourself the fruits of your generosity and the difference you make in the lives of these young people.

In this report, you will learn about the growth and mentorship opportunities you provided to these young Christian leaders. You will also hear from some of the students themselves how you positively changed their lives.

Your support helped several young leaders stand strong for their principles. This includes Jessica Miller, a young woman who now takes the first steps in a promising journalism career thanks to the mentorship she received in LI's Christian Leaders Program.

You will also read how the Christian Leaders Program prepared two young women to start their own conservative nonprofit organization to inspire their generation to champion conservative principles.

Because of you, our country has a growing new generation of well-trained Christian leaders who fight to uphold America's founding principles of faith and freedom.

Thank you for your investment in the lives of these young men and women.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell  
President, Leadership Institute





# An Overview of Your Tremendous Impact Through LI's Christian Leaders Program in 2024

## Election years energize young people ready to lead in politics

Throughout 2024, Christian students watched the left campaign for policies and leaders deeply antagonistic to their conservative principles.

Many of those students sought out ways to engage in politics and to stand up for truth against the left's radical ideology.

In 2024, because of you, the Christian Leaders Program:

- Recruited more students than ever.
- Innovated to give students more and better training opportunities.
- Swelled the ranks of young Christian leaders ready to serve America and defend her founding principles.

Your support brought back high-impact events in the program, including training and scholarships to attend the National March for Life and the capstone of the program, LI's Christian Statesman Conference.



Students in the Christian Leaders Program tour the United States Capitol during LI's 2024 Christian Statesman Conference.

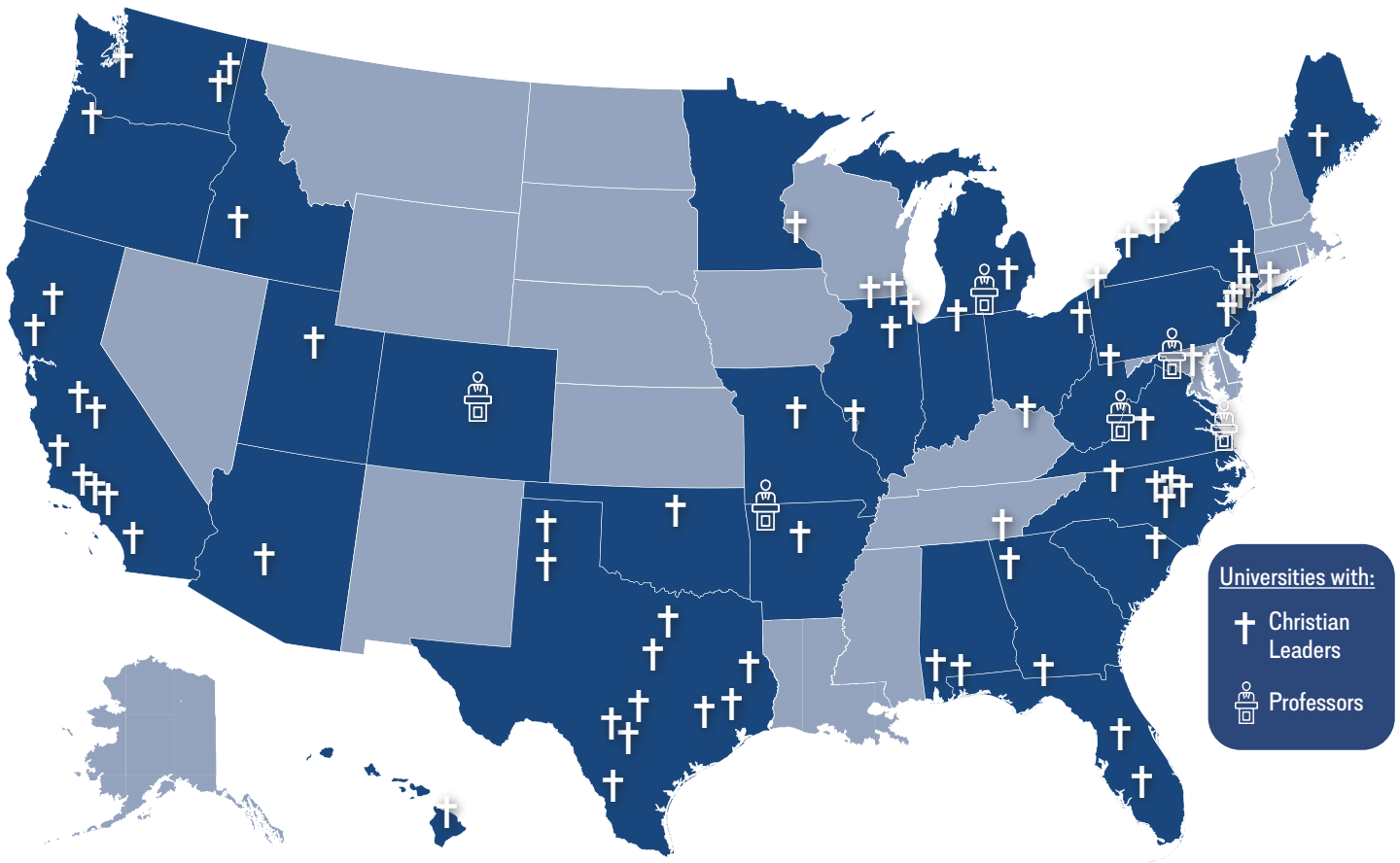
You also made possible new opportunities for students.

In 2024, your Leadership Institute launched Christian Leaders Workshops, a new type of training program for Christian students to learn political skills.

You will read later in this report about how these workshops greatly enhance the leadership abilities of students in the program.

Thanks to the mentorship you made possible through LI's Christian Leaders Program, 16 students secured jobs and internships in 2024 in the conservative movement.

# Your Nationwide Impact



**136** Active Christian Leaders



**504** Students Trained in **28** Programs



**6** Christian Professors Active in the Program



**10** Partner Conferences Attended

# 105 Young Leaders Learn How to Defend Life

*“I’m grateful to be here learning to conduct marches and activism. It’s important to go out to the community and to our capital and communicate our message to the world.”*

**Grant Saam**  
Northern Illinois University



The Christian Leaders Program started 2024 strong, when your Leadership Institute sponsored 105 Christian students to attend the National March for Life in Washington, D.C.

Prior to the March, students attended a special training at Leadership Institute headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Here, LI staff taught them how to make compelling signs for the rally and how to conduct successful pro-life activism on campus.

Grant Saam, a student at Northern Illinois University, said, “I’m grateful to be here learning to conduct marches and activism. It’s important to go out to the community and to our capital and communicate our message to the world.”

Thanks to you, students returned to campus with the motivation and know-how to defend their pro-life principles.



Students in LI’s Christian Leaders Program braved snowy Washington, D.C., weather to attend the National March for Life in 2024.



# New Opportunities Create Stronger Christian Leaders

In 2024, your Leadership Institute developed a new training program: **Christian Leaders Workshops**.

These three-hour training sessions teach students how to advocate for conservative principles on and off campus.

Your Leadership Institute tailors these workshops to the activism and career goals of the students who request training.

Working with the staff of LI's Christian Leaders Program, students select one of several possible tracks to focus their three hours of study:

- Coalition Building
- Recruitment
- Media and Communications
- Pro-life Activism
- Applying Conservative Principles in the Political World
- Networking and Engagement

Leadership Institute staff work with conservative student groups to bring these workshops to campuses nationwide. In 2024, your Leadership Institute conducted Christian Leaders Workshops for students in campus chapters of Young Americans for Freedom, Students for Life, Christians United for Israel, and Network of Enlightened Women, among other groups.

Thanks to your support in 2024, your Leadership Institute trained 204 Christian leaders in 18 Christian Leaders Workshops.



# 2024 Christian Statesman Conference

# IRON SHARPENS IRON

The capstone event of LI's Christian Leaders Program is the Christian Statesman Conference.

Thanks to your support, the Leadership Institute brought 44 students from 30 different colleges and universities together for the three-day conference.

Held at Leadership Institute headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, from May 30 to June 2, 2024, the conference developed students in three key areas:

- **Practical skills for political activism and personal leadership.**
- **Connections with like-minded peers and professionals in the conservative movement.**
- **Understanding of the tradition of Christian statesmanship in America and their place within that tradition.**

Through hands-on training, students learned skills for public speaking and then practiced those skills on camera in the Leadership Institute's on-site television

studio. They also learned how to organize and lead their peers on campus and how to launch their own conservative organizations.

One great benefit of the Christian Statesman Conference is in the connections students form with each other and with Christian professionals. At the conference, students network with Christian professionals who work in academia, think tanks, journalism, and public policy to learn about job opportunities and exciting career paths within the conservative movement.

Throughout the three-day program, the conference immersed students in the tradition of Christian statesmanship in America and the biblical heritage at the heart of American history and public life.

Students prized this special opportunity. Ony Otiocha, a student at North Carolina State University, said, "I was able to learn how I can integrate Christianity into the political world without compromising my integrity. This conference has been an amazing experience."

During the Christian Statesman Conference, students practiced public speaking on camera and received feedback and advice from LI's expert faculty as well as their peers.







Students toured the United States Capitol and national monuments, where they discussed the important role of biblical and conservative principles in the American system of government.

Another student, Margaret Taylor from St. Louis University, said, “I will bring the information I learned this weekend back to campus and spread conservative principles.”

Your support transformed these young men and women into a new generation of conservative leaders who will take up the mantle of Christian statesmanship and continue the fight for America’s founding principles.



*“I will bring the information I learned this weekend back to campus and spread conservative principles.”*

Margaret Taylor • St. Louis University





Your Leadership Institute sponsored students in the Christian Leaders Program to attend the Faith and Freedom Coalition's annual Road to Majority Conference in Washington, D.C.

## Christian and Conservative Conferences Provide More Unique Experiences and Networking Opportunities

The Leadership Institute's Christian Statesman Conference highlights the value of bringing principled, motivated young leaders together.

That's why your Leadership Institute also sponsors students in the Christian Leaders Program to attend other top Christian and conservative conferences.

Leadership Institute staff also attend those conferences to recruit students into the Christian Leaders Program and expand the reach of Leadership Institute resources available to students.

Students in the Christian Leaders Program who attended the Leadership Institute's training for the National March for Life in January received scholarships to attend Students for Life's National Pro-Life Summit the day after the March for Life.

In June, your Leadership Institute sponsored 15 students to attend the Faith and Freedom Coalition's annual Road to Majority

Conference in Washington, D.C. There, students saw firsthand what fighting for conservative principles looks like in practice.

Thanks to your support, the Leadership Institute sponsored students to attend one particularly special conference in September 2024 — Counteract USA's Resolve to Stand Conference held in Rogers, Arkansas.

As you will read later in this report, an alumna of LI's Christian Leaders Program founded Counteract USA. Your Leadership Institute proudly sent students to Resolve to Stand to see for themselves the growing footsteps of conservative leadership in which they follow.

Students made full use of their time at these events. Heaven Angel Martinez, a student from the University of Texas at San Antonio who attended the Road to Majority Conference, said, "I was able to network with many great people in conservative media and build connections for my own career."

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**Leadership Institute staff attend Christian and conservative conferences to recruit students into the Christian Leaders Program and expand the reach of Leadership Institute resources available to students.**

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# You Help Christian Students Start Promising Careers

LI's Christian Leaders Program works to activate a new generation of conservative Christians to succeed in politics, public policy, and the media. In 2024, you helped many young Christian leaders take the first steps in their leadership journeys. **Thanks to the mentorship they received from the Christian Leaders Program, 16 students secured jobs and internships within the conservative movement.**



## Sarah Prentice

Correspondent, *The Daily Caller*

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As a student at the State University of New York – Brockport, Sarah knew she wanted to pursue a career in journalism. She joined LI's Christian Leaders Program and received practical resume advice and career mentorship to prepare her for success after graduation. Thanks to the resources you made possible for her, Sarah landed a job as a correspondent with *The Daily Caller* in March 2024.



## Andrew Sinclair

Intern, Congressman Wesley Hunt (R-TX)

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A strong Christian with a deep desire to advance conservative principles, Andrew took full advantage of the opportunities for mentorship and growth through LI's Christian Leaders Program. While a student at Texas Tech University, Andrew used the career advice he gained in the program to earn an internship on Capitol Hill with U.S. Representative Wesley Hunt of Texas.

*You helped Sarah, Andrew, and 14 other young conservative Christians begin their careers of leadership through your support of the Christian Leaders Program.*



# Christian Leaders Whose Lives You Change

## Jessica Miller Takes Her First Steps in a Promising Career in Journalism

When Jessica Miller started at California State University — Chico, she expected to find a community with a vibrant exchange of ideas.

Instead, she found a leftist propaganda machine that did not welcome her conservative principles.

On her first day of class, she spoke out in defense of a conservative politician whom her peers relentlessly criticized. Singled out as a conservative, this made her “the number one target for student-professor debate in our classroom,” as Jessica put it.

Jessica found herself in the proverbial lion’s den, but she refused to back down or hide her beliefs. She turned to your Leadership Institute to learn the skills to defend her conservative principles in front of her leftist peers and professors.

An aspiring journalist, Jessica attended your Leadership Institute’s 2024 Christian Statesman Conference to network with conservatives working in the media.

At the conference, Leadership Institute staff connected Jessica with LI’s Campus Reform news organization and with the *California Globe*, a conservative online newspaper in the Golden State.

Just two days after the conference, the *California Globe* published an article Jessica wrote about the threats to freedom of expression in the California State University system.



Because of your support, Jessica took her first steps in what may become a powerful career as a conservative journalist.

Jessica also joined LI’s Campus Reform as a correspondent and now receives ongoing mentorship to help her succeed in journalism after college.

Jessica is grateful for these opportunities. She said, “I am so thankful that I can use my voice to stand up for my faith in politics.”

Your support gave Jessica the know-how and resources to defend conservative principles, even in the face of strong leftist intimidation and fierce opposition.

**CAMPUS  REFORM**

A Project of the Leadership Institute

*As one of LI’s Campus Reform correspondents, Jessica now receives ongoing mentorship to help her succeed in journalism after college.*

# Abigail DeJarnatt and Allie Paris Inspire Their Generation to Fight for the Truth

Growing up, Arkansas natives Abigail DeJarnatt and Allie Paris both felt called to take a stand for Christian principles in a secular world.

Abigail followed her calling in 2021 and formed the Christian nonprofit organization Counteract USA. She later recruited Allie to serve as the organization's chief operating officer and director of development.

Counteract USA trains young Christians to apply biblical principles to today's cultural and political questions, rooting the answers to those questions in eternal truths.

Looking for guidance on running Counteract USA, Abigail and Allie joined your Leadership Institute's Christian Leaders Program. They attended the Christian Leaders Program's National March for Life event in 2023 and both Christian Statesman Conferences that year. These training programs taught them fundamental skills for organizing, growing, and leading Counteract USA.

Abigail and Allie also connected with other young conservative Christian leaders, several of whom now work with Counteract USA. Through Counteract USA, Abigail and Allie pass on many of the insights they learned from your Leadership Institute.

Abigail and Allie also use the skills they learned in LI's Christian Leaders Program to host Counteract USA's Resolve to Stand National Conference. Resolve to Stand inspires students to stand up and fight for the truth on their campuses and for a lifetime. In 2024, more than 500 people attended the Resolve to Stand National Conference.

In 2024, Abigail and Allie achieved another victory for their conservative principles by leading the Decline to Sign campaign against a radical pro-abortion ballot measure in Arkansas.

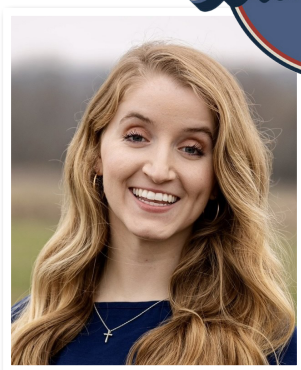
Abigail and Allie organized students in Arkansas and taught them the powerful activism skills they had learned from your Leadership Institute. Their hard work paid off, and the abortion measure was not on the ballot in Arkansas in the November elections.

You gave Abigail and Allie the tools to transform Counteract USA into a professional and successful conservative organization — and they're deeply grateful.

"The Christian Leaders Program has been an encouragement to us in every way," Allie said. "From training us to helping us launch the Resolve to Stand Conference, the Leadership Institute has been a wonderful partner to us."

In 2024, Abigail and Allie returned to LI's Christian Statesman Conference as faculty to share their experience and advice on launching a nonprofit organization.

Thanks to you, Abigail and Allie inspire their generation to stand and fight for truth.



**Abigail DeJarnatt**  
Founder and CEO



**Allie Paris**  
COO and Director of Development



Abigail and Allie speak to students at LI's 2024 Christian Statesman Conference about their experience launching a nonprofit organization.



# Onward and Upward in 2025

In 2025, students return to campus in a changed political climate.

President Trump's election victory will encourage many Christian students to engage in political action or pursue political careers. And the enraged radical campus left will further attempt to suppress those students who support conservative principles.

With your support, the Leadership Institute's Christian Leaders Program will give conservative students the resources to stand strong for what they believe and to build careers of success and leadership in the great tradition of American Christian statesmanship.

As in previous years, your Leadership Institute will begin 2025 by hosting students for the National March for Life and training them on proven activism skills.

Throughout the year, with your support, the Leadership Institute will work to increase the number of students trained through Christian Leaders Workshops, recruit more students and professors to the program, and improve the mentorship and career resources for students. Your Leadership Institute also now plans the fourth Christian Statesman Conference, currently scheduled for June 2025.



**Thank you for your support of the  
Christian Leaders Program in 2024.**

The tremendous impact you've read about in this report, the young men and women trained, and the careers kickstarted — your support helped make it all possible.



Where Conservative Leaders are Made

STEVEN P.J. WOOD BUILDING  
1101 NORTH HIGHLAND STREET  
ARLINGTON, VA 22201  
(703) 247-3333

[www.LeadershipInstitute.org](http://www.LeadershipInstitute.org)