

# CHRISTIAN LEADERS PROGRAM

2023 INAUGURAL YEARBOOK



 Leadership  
Institute  
WHERE CONSERVATIVE LEADERS ARE MADE



Dear Conservative Friend,

The yearbook you hold now showcases the first fruits of the Leadership Institute's new Christian Leaders Program.

Thank you for making this remarkable program possible through your faith, partnership, and trust in the Leadership Institute's mission to train strong conservative leaders for America.

Formed in the fall of 2022, the Christian Leaders Program aims to train and mentor a new generation of conservative Christian leaders, young men and women who will put their faith into action in powerful ways in America.

Many Christians, especially those on college campuses, have a strong desire to change the direction our country is headed. They love America and deeply desire to preserve faith, family, and freedom for the next generation.

But many of them don't know how to channel their energy into productive action. Your Leadership Institute launched the Christian Leaders Program to help them do that.

Your Leadership Institute combines the drive and passion of those young leaders with our proven training and mentorship programs to accelerate their growth and impact on our country.

As you read through this book, you'll get to know the first 40 students recruited to this remarkable new program. You'll also get to know a bit about my staffer, Amanda Spiers, who leads the program.

The potential long-term fruits of this program give me great hope for the future of our country. Thank you for supporting these students and your Leadership Institute.

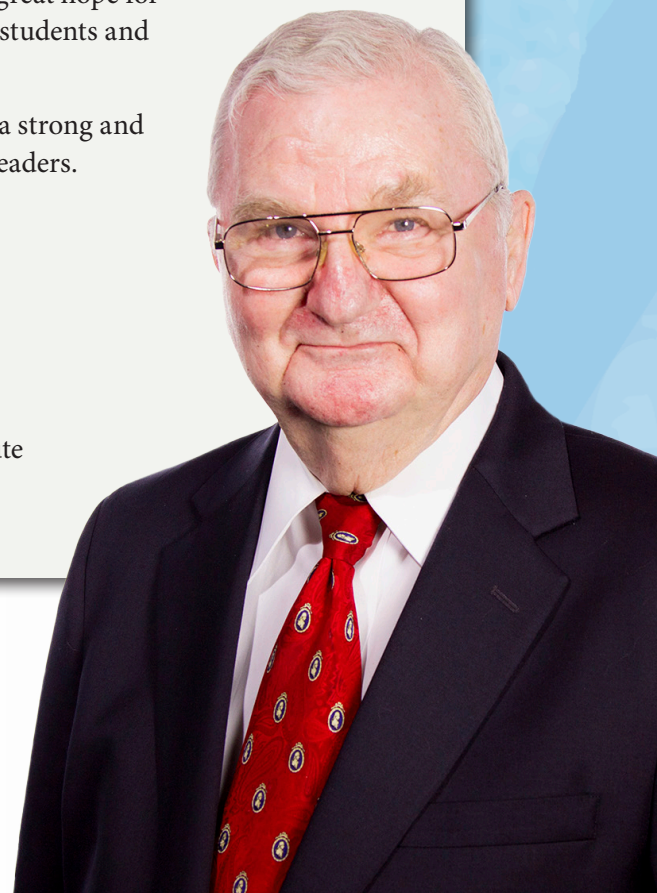
Together, you and I make sure faithful Christians have a strong and growing voice among the new generation of conservative leaders.

Thank you.

Cordially,



Morton C. Blackwell  
President, Leadership Institute



# CHRISTIAN LEADERS PROGRAM

The Leadership Institute's Christian Leaders Program activates a new generation of conservative Christians to engage meaningfully with the political process and contend for their principles, the very principles upon which America was founded.

Your Leadership Institute first identifies conservative Christian leaders on college campuses by building relationships through LI's existing national network of conservative student groups. In addition, your Leadership Institute works with Christian professors to identify promising students.

Your Leadership Institute then recruits those students into the program and works to match their career goals and aspirations with the broad array of Leadership Institute resources.

Through training, one-on-one mentorship, and ongoing support, your Leadership Institute helps young Christian leaders learn how to work in politics on behalf of their faith.

The Christian Leaders Program also connects students to networking, internship, and job opportunities throughout the conservative and Christian movements.

The Christian Leaders Program is managed by Amanda Spiers, who is herself a strong conservative Christian leader.

In June 2023, Amanda will launch the capstone of the Christian Leaders Program: the Christian Statesmen Conference. This event will bring together dozens of the top young Christian leaders from across the country for an intensive course on politics, organizational leadership, and networking.

Through the Christian Leaders Program, the Leadership Institute activates conservative Christians and accelerates their development into the future leaders of the conservative movement and of the country.





## Kaitlyn Banning

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
– COLUMBIA, MO

Hometown:  
Belleville, Illinois

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Kaitlyn is a third-year biomedical engineering student at the University of Missouri and is president of her Students for Life chapter.

When she was in junior high, she wished that her church had a beneficial junior high girls’ Sunday School. Kaitlyn always craved the accountability and community of a close-knit Sunday School, so when she was a freshman in high school, she, with the assistance of another friend, established such a class.

During the past six years, she has seen the growth and development of many outstanding young women. The Sunday school class has allowed her to mentor and lead many junior high girls in their faith. She will forever be proud of this achievement.



## Emily Blackmon

COLORADO CHRISTIAN  
UNIVERSITY –  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

Hometown: Houston, Texas

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Emily Blackmon is a sophomore at Colorado Christian University, where she studies Political Science. On campus she is active in both the Young Americans for Liberty and Turning Point USA chapters.

Emily grew up in Houston and was very active in her local church where she was baptized at 7 years old. Her mom worked in children’s church, so her church always seemed like a second home to her. Emily has a passion for youth ministry and dedicated many hours to the youth ministry at Second Baptist Church in Houston.

A proud Leadership Institute graduate, Emily has attended two Youth Leadership Workshops and Youth Leadership School.



## Emma Blair

GRAND CANYON  
UNIVERSITY – PHOENIX, AZ

Hometown:  
Flagstaff, Arizona

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Emma is currently earning her master’s in Public Administration, Government, and Policy at Grand Canyon University, where she also works in the Government Relations Department.

She participated in various ministries throughout her time in college. Currently, she is one of her college ministries facilitators. She has served in Sunday school since she was five years old, alongside her grandma.

The role and intersection between family, community, the church, the government, and the private sector is her favorite area to discuss. Emma is a Youth Leadership School graduate and has taken four other Leadership Institute trainings, including a Student Publication Workshop.

# Mary-Grace Byers

FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY OF STEUBENVILLE – STEUBENVILLE, OH

Hometown: Sacramento, California

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Mary studies Journalism at the Franciscan University of Steubenville and plans to graduate in May of 2023 with her bachelors.

A Leadership Institute Campus Ambassador and former intern for Susan B Anthony List at her school, Mary recruits students for door-knocking days and participates in longer canvassing trips. She is also the president of her campus's Young Americans for Freedom chapter this school year.

Recently, Mary finished a year-long internship with Students for Life of America. She worked with student groups throughout western Pennsylvania to train them in pro-life apologetics and mobilize them to become more active in the pro-life movement. She also worked in communications, research, and data analysis.

Mary is a recent graduate of LI's Student Activism Conference and is looking forward to getting more involved on her campus.



*“The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force by example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve.”*

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**JOHN STOTT**

# Gavinn Alstott

WABASH COLLEGE – CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN

Hometown: Jefferson, Indiana

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Gavinn Alstott is a sophomore at Wabash College, where he majors in Political Science and minors in History and Religion.

At school, Gavinn is on the wrestling team, a member of Wabash Christian Men, the Independent Men's Association, College Republicans, and Student Government. He is also a current political intern for the Indiana Republican Party and Todd Young.

Gavinn is a recent graduate of Floyd Central High School. He was baptized at 18 years old at Eastside Christian Church in Jefferson, Indiana, and has been a regular attendee ever since.



# Matthew Armato

UNIVERSITY OF DALLAS – IRVING, TX

Hometown: Dallas, Texas

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Matthew Armato is from Dallas, Texas and attends the University of Dallas where he is majoring in Business with a minor in Political Philosophy and is on a pre-law track.

Matthew is a founding member and officer of his school's Young Conservatives of Texas chapter. He is also involved in Crusaders for Life Club and plays on his university's rugby team.

Recently, Matthew worked on Governor Glenn Youngkin's campaign as a Political Canvasser in Virginia. Matthew was an LI Youth Leadership School Intern in Summer of 2022.



# Noeli Aguirre-Olivas

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY – FRESNO, CA

Hometown: Fresno, California

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Noeli is studying political science at California State University – Fresno, and is expected to graduate in May 2023. She is a leader in the pro-life movement on her campus and a part of Young Americans for Liberty.

Noeli is a member of her local church parish. Through the Catholic community she is motivated to fight for life. Many of the pro-life leaders in the area are Roman Catholic, and together they have formed a great coalition that fights for the pre-born and their mothers. Noeli is a graduate of at least 19 Leadership Institute trainings.

# Aaron Carlson

GRACE COLLEGE – WINONA LAKE, IN

Hometown: Linden, Indiana

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Aaron is an Elementary Education — Political Science — Masters in Higher Education student at Grace College. In 2020, he founded a Turning Point USA chapter on his campus. Aaron built a team of other conservative students and had them trained through LI's Youth Leadership School before turning over leadership of the TPUSA.

Growing up, Aaron always thought he would pursue a career as a Christian educator in a public elementary school. Yet, as he began to understand what Christian teachers struggle with in the classroom, he recognized that many of the problems originated higher up in the education system, especially in the Department of Education.

Aaron now aims to teach for a few years and then transition to the Department of Education to work on behalf of children from a policy and academic standards perspective. Children's ministry has been a significant part of Aaron's life. He has worked with Child Evangelism Fellowship and other organizations that offer after-school Bible studies for students. Aaron believes service should be an expression of one's personal faith. Teaching children must come from the heart which is where he finds his inspiration and passion to teach.

Over the years, he has held several leadership roles in ministry, including men's camp director, advanced summer missionary, and event coordinator for his church. The most important goal for Aaron is to honor Christ in all that he does, regardless of the role. Aaron is passionate about integrating his faith into everything that he does, whether motorsports, politics, or academics.



*"And let us not grow weary of doing good,  
for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."*

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**GALATIANS 6:9**



# Ananda Cintra

MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE –  
CHICAGO, IL

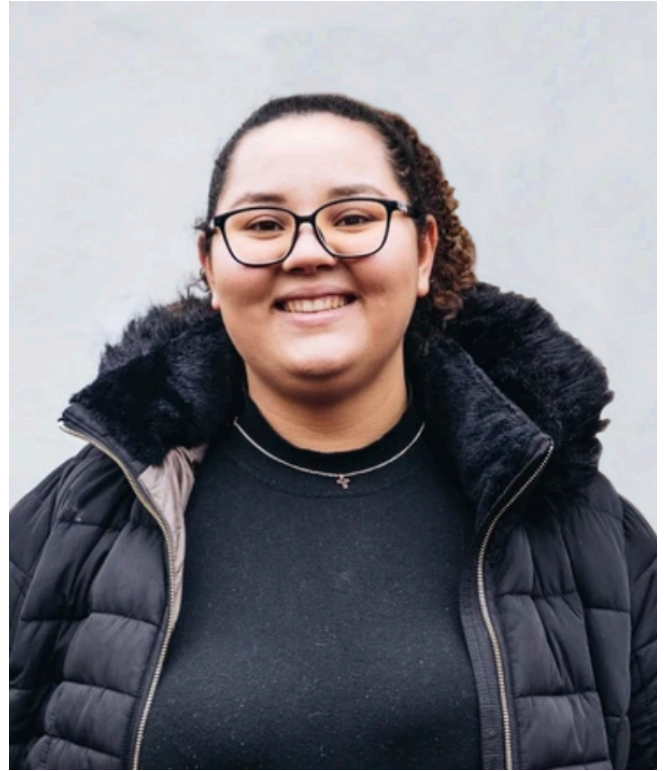
Home Country: Brazil

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Ananda attends Moody Bible Institute, where she is set to graduate in 2026.

Ananda's experience with church and ministry began when she was 15 years old, when she started serving in the Youth Department leadership team. She was responsible for the communications department, small groups, worship leading, Bible teaching, and project management.

In 2020 she moved to Chicago. At her church there, she started serving with the Leadership of the Young Adults. She leads storytelling time for the Children's Ministry and supports the Youth and Communications department.



# Camille Cleveland

COVENANT COLLEGE –  
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GA

Hometown: Gadsen, Alabama

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Camille is a freshman studying biology at Covenant College in Georgia. She's working to start a Students for Life chapter there.

Camille has worked in her church since she was 14. She loves kids and enjoys watching them grow in their faith. She's taken part in the children's ministry and nursery for many years. She's also helped fundraise for mission trips.

Service is very important to her, and she believes that she can bring joy to people with the simplest acts of kindness. She is excited to be able to grow her faith in a new community. And she hopes to continue her life with a servant's heart.



# Isabelle Colletti

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE – SPRINGFIELD, VA

Hometown: Albuquerque, New Mexico

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Isabelle was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico but has also lived in Nevada, Virginia, Arizona, and Colorado. In 2018, her dad was transferred back to the DC metro area.

Homeschooled for the last three and a half years, she also participated in Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Last fall she started college classes and she plans on studying political science and communication.

While in Las Vegas, Isabelle volunteered in both her local and military communities by regularly helping to plan and organize morale events to support families of deployed military members. She currently volunteers at her church in Springfield, Virginia, and has spent the last several months helping clean the inner city of Baltimore. This experience had a huge impact on her.

Growing up, she always wanted to serve her country by joining the military like her dad. However, since moving back to the DC metro area, she has become more interested in getting involved in the political process.

Isabelle loves this country, is passionate about conservative principles, and does not take any of our liberties for granted. She would like to see our country more united again and wants to do her part to make it happen.



*"It is freedom that allows ordinary people to do extraordinary things."*

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**RUSH LIMBAUGH**

# Emily Fowler

THE MASTER'S UNIVERSITY –  
SANTA CLARITA, CA

Hometown: Mt. Carmel, Illinois

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Emily Fowler is from Mt. Carmel, Illinois and is graduating with her Associates Degree in Arts and Sciences from Wabash Valley College.

Upon graduation, Emily will transfer to The Master's University in Santa Clarita, California where she will major in Music. Outside of school, Emily enjoys music, art and reading.

Emily currently serves as a Student Senator at her college and is an Illinois Campus Reform Correspondent for LI.

She interned with the Leadership Institute's Campus Reform website in the summer of 2022.



# Carrena Falls

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWESTERN, ST. PAUL  
– ST. PAUL, MN

Hometown: Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

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Carrena is studying graphic design, art, and the Bible at the University of Northwestern, Saint Paul.

She is the president of the pro life club, a fellow with Students for Life of America, and an intern with Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life.

Carrena loves learning about theology! She also is passionate about glorifying God, creating art, and ending abortion.



# Jacob Fox

HILLSDALE COLLEGE – HILLSDALE, MI

Hometown: Louisville, Kentucky

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Jacob Fox is currently double majoring in Politics and Economics at Hillsdale College.

Jacob was drawn to student activism through seeing a lot of passive conservatives at his school. Many of the political clubs on campus focus on bringing in speakers and simply letting their members sit in a room hearing lecture after lecture.

He always found debate and dialogue with his fellow students much more engaging and, as such, was motivated to foster student involvement in the conservative movement.

The Leadership Institute granted him a scholarship for a Youth Leadership School. That school gave him all of the necessary tools to become an effective leader on his campus. He learned student outreach and recruitment strategy as well as effective event organization. Because of this, Jacob has been able to connect several of the conservative clubs on campus with additional resources to allow them to thrive for the years to come.

He has served for over 4 years at his church and volunteers weekly doing yard work, shoveling snow, and cleaning for those in need in his community. Jacob hopes to attend graduate school for public policy, then work at a state level think tank focusing on areas of deregulation within government and administrative state accountability.



*“The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things.  
He is the one who gets the people to do the greatest things.”*

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**RONALD REAGAN**

# Owen Girard

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE – TALLAHASSEE, FL

Hometown: Tallahassee, Florida

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Owen Girard studies Political Science at Tallahassee Community College. A Catholic convert, Owen embraced fiscal and social conservatism in the beginning stages of his faith journey.

Owen sees his biggest accomplishment as founding the Turning Point USA chapter on his campus. The group is growing in numbers, and he looks forward to hosting meetings and speakers very soon.

“This has been a great opportunity for me to create more connections within conservative politics and advance my knowledge and skill sets when it comes to managing and coordinating a student organization for future goals.”

Owen’s involvement with Turning Point has led him to become more active with the Leadership Institute. He looks forward to participating in more LI events and training sessions. Owen intends to complete his bachelor’s degree in Political Science at a different university and take his work to either Washington or local government. Whether through campaigning, activism, lobbying, or directly holding elected office, he hopes to bring about conservative change and a return to traditional American values.

*“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”*

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**2 TIMOTHY 2:15**

# Katie Gooding

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY – LYNCHBURG, VA

Hometown: Charlotte, North Carolina

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Katie attends Liberty University, where she is on track to graduate in December of 2023. Prior to attending Liberty University, Katie found her passion, being involved in politics, especially when it came pro-life policies and religious liberties. Attending Liberty University, Katie has been able to develop an understanding of the Bible and how Christians should interact with the civil government. Over her time at Liberty, she’s been involved with a Biblical worldview club called Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Truth.

Growing up in the church, Katie was introduced to Christianity at a young age. Throughout her years at a Christian K-12 school, she was trained up in understanding a Christian worldview through both her church and her teachers.

Throughout her time in politics, she has worked to bring others to the Kingdom and bring truth to the political arena about the Gospel. Since politics has become so secularized, Katie’s ministry works to mentor younger girls both in the Word and in how to keep a Biblical worldview in a secular culture.





# David Hicks

**JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY – SILOAM SPRINGS, AR**

Hometown: Springdale, Arkansas

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David Hicks is a current senior at John Brown University. He studies Philosophy and minors in Biblical and Theological Studies. In pursuit of his passion for ministry, David is in the ordination process for the United Methodist Church so he can serve local congregations. He plans to pursue graduate work in theology and philosophy after he graduates.

At First United Methodist Church in Springdale, Arkansas, David served as a Youth Ministry Intern, where he led mission trips locally and organized trips nationwide. David has been a Vacation Bible School leader and a Sunday School teacher for multiple classes aged 50+. He is in the process of planning a large-scale, Wednesday night study for his church’s “Grow First” adult studies.

# Jaden Heard

**AUBURN UNIVERSITY – AUBURN, AL**

Hometown: Auburn, Alabama

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Jaden Heard is an LI Campus Ambassador and business administration major at Auburn University.

Jaden realized he was conservative in 2020 as he entered many discussions on difficult topics including abortion, Black Lives Matter, COVID-19, and election integrity.

On campus, Jaden is the vice president of Auburn’s Turning Point USA chapter, as well as the outreach coordinator for the Students for Life chapter. Off campus, he represents Alabama as the state captain for Students for Life Action.

In addition, Jaden exposes liberal biases on college campuses and has frequent media appearances thanks to Leadership Institute’s Campus Reform website. This became possible from the beginning of Jaden’s conservative journey when he attended his first LI training — the Youth Leadership School in New Orleans, LA — in 2020.

Since then, Jaden has attended LI’s Student Activism Conference and two in-depth Campus Reform media trainings.

“The Leadership Institute has equipped me with many skills and knowledge through the years to take back my campus and change the political climate in my area,” said Jaden. “In the future, I want to do whatever I can for the glory of God, whether that be serving in politics, in the business world, or full-time ministry.”





## Esther Jin

PATRICK HENRY COLLEGE – PURCELLVILLE, VA

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

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Esther Jin is a freshman at Patrick Henry College, where she studies International Politics and Policy. Esther was homeschooled and grew up in the church. In her formative years she attended many Christian day camps and events such as TeenPact. Now as a young adult she has taught at five Christian Youth in Action summer camps where she focuses on teaching students about the Bible.

At Patrick Henry College, Esther hopes to spread her Christian, conservative values and become a part of the leadership of the student body. Post-graduation, Esther plans to attend law school and work in international law or politics. This desire stems from her passion for different cultures and languages — especially Chinese.

## Jasmyn Jordan

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA – IOWA CITY, IA

Hometown: Peoria, Illinois

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Jasmyn is a second-year honors student at the University of Iowa, double majoring in Political Science and International Relations on the Pre-Law Track. She is Vice-Chairwoman of Iowa Young Americans for Freedom, member of Phi Alpha Delta, member of Phi Eta Sigma, Honors Outreach Ambassador, and Student Reporter for *The College Fix*.

She also interned for several political campaigns and is involved in campus ministry.

Jasmyn has attended church since birth, got baptized during middle school, and served in young children's ministry for four years.

She is passionate about juvenile justice and conservative ideas. She cares deeply about helping black youth achieve higher goals socially and academically, and not be stuck looking through the lens of racism. Jasmyn believes in standing firm in your beliefs, spreading the truth, and exposing corruption.



# Grace Lalley

GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY –  
PORTLAND, OR

Hometown: Eugene, Oregon

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Grace Lalley is studying nursing at George Fox University where she is set to graduate in 2023. She grew up in a conservative, Christian home.

Grace's first experience with the Leadership Institute was attending the National Youth Leadership School in Washington, DC.

At her hometown church, Grace served as a youth group leader for five years. When she was the head female youth leader, she led Bible studies and a retreat where she focused on identity in Christ.

Grace's relationship with Jesus has been her rock. She knows He was the one that provided for her to attend college, and He created a unique relationship that made her fully dependent on Him.

Grace is passionate about sharing with others how God's love is always in pursuit of them, and sharing that people are fully known, fully loved, and have a plan completely written by their Savior for their good.

*“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”*

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**PROVERBS 31:8-9**



# Emma Mays

CHARLESTON SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY –  
NORTH CHARLESTON, SC

Hometown: Raleigh, North Carolina

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Emma Mays attends Charleston Southern University and is studying pre-law.

She is very passionate about politics through a Biblical worldview. She feels strongly about keeping Christianity in politics and promotes this idea in any way she can.

Emma aspires to become a Leadership Institute intern and expand her knowledge through LI trainings in the coming months.





## Sarah Mbaya

**PENSACOLA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE –  
PENSACOLA, FL**

Hometown: Austin, Texas

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Sarah attends Pensacola Christian College and is on track to graduate in fall of 2024.

Sarah serves at her church as a children's church teacher and in her church nursery. Every summer she serves as a children's leader in their Vacation Bible School.

She is passionate about being used by the Lord Jesus Christ and doing His will in her life and about being used by God in the political realm.



## Sarah McNamara

**GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY –  
ALLENDALE, MI**

Hometown: Naperville, Illinois

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Sarah McNamara is a Political Science major at Grand Valley State University. She is the president and founder of GV Campus Lutherans as well as a board member of GV Ratio Christi.

Sarah is an active member of the Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod. At her home church in Illinois, she volunteered as an Audio Technician, Blessings Bags Coordinator, choir member, and Vacation Bible School leader. At her current church she is on the committee to raise money for a new ultrasound machine at the local pregnancy resource center.

Sarah attended LI's National Youth Leadership School in July 2022 and looks forward to getting more involved with Leadership Institute and the conservative movement.



## Julia Mendoza

CALIFORNIA BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
– RIVERSIDE, CA

Hometown: Del Mar Beach, California

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Julia is a current junior at California Baptist University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work.

Being raised in a Christian church has allowed her to build and maintain her relationship with God. Gaining experience and knowledge in her spiritual life is something that she deeply values.

She believes that attending California Baptist University has helped her strengthen her relationship with God through the faith-based environment that is present on campus. Whether through Christian Study classes, Bible study sessions, or participating in chapel services, her relationship with God has grown stronger over the past two years.

As a follower of Christ, Julia believes that learning more about the Gospel from California Baptist University has allowed her to serve unreached communities by spreading the Word of God and increasing her spiritual experiences.



## Hannah Mercer

WILSON CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
– LEBANON, TN

Hometown: Lebanon, Tennessee

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Hannah grew up as a youth pastor's kid and is the oldest of four siblings. At her church now, she is involved with her youth group and is passionate about mission opportunities.

Hannah serves in their preschool ministry and loves touching the lives of little kids and teaching about who Jesus was and is.

She is also in a missional community with a group of people who feel like family and push Biblical standards in all aspects of life.

*"Character matters; Leadership descends from character."*

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**RUSH LIMBAUGH**



## Hanna Merrithew

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
– ANN ARBOR, MI**

Hometown: Traverse City, Michigan

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Hannah attends the University of Michigan, where she studies architecture and is involved in their Protect Life and YAF chapters. She is graduating in May of 2024.

Hanna grew up receiving a Catholic education. She attended weekly Mass and makes her faith a regular part of her life.

In college, she worked to find people that would support and push her in her faith and help encourage her to use her morals as a foundation to promote change on campus.

She is passionate about the pro-life movement and the Second Amendment.



## Haika Mrema

**BAYLOR UNIVERSITY  
– WACO, TX**

Hometown: Santa Rosa, California

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Haika attends Baylor University, where she studies Entrepreneurship and Corporate Innovation.

She was raised in a Christian conservative home, which led her to the beliefs she holds today. She is currently in a mentorship program with her community church that she attends frequently. She's been able to go on a mission trip and be baptized by a church leader that is dear to her heart.

Haika implements her Christian beliefs into her leadership positions, especially within her Vice President role of their Network of Enlightened Women chapter. They strive to foster not only a conservative community but a Christian one as well.

# Faithanna Olsson

OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY – OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

Hometown: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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Faithanna Olsson is a freshman at Oklahoma Christian University, where she studies Journalism.

Church has been a big part of Faithanna's entire life due to the strong influence of her Christian, conservative parents. In 5th grade she discovered a passion for children's ministry for children of all ages. Today, she dedicates many hours to serving in her church's children's ministry.

In Faithanna's free time, she serves with Mission OKC which reaches out to underprivileged kids. She also attended Summit Ministries camp in Colorado this past summer where she heard from various influential speakers on important cultural and theological issues.

Faithanna looks forward to her new role as a Leadership Institute Campus Ambassador and a member of the Christian Leaders Program.



*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”*

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**PROVERBS 3:5-6**



## Auston Neal

**FAULKNER UNIVERSITY THOMAS GOODE  
JONES SCHOOL OF LAW – MONTGOMERY, AL**

Hometown: Cullman, Alabama

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Auston is a first year law student at Faulkner University. He has been serving in volunteer ministry since he was in early high school and has attended church his entire life. Auston coordinated student ministry service nights and led small/community groups at his church.

His job took him away from being able to consistently serve in that capacity, but he still serves on Sundays in different capacities such as prayer team, production team, host, and emcee. He believes in the Church and its mission and will serve in it for the rest of his life!



## Angelina Newbold

**TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – COLLEGE  
STATION, TX**

Hometown: Alvord, Texas

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Angelina Newbold is a freshman at Texas A&M University, where she studies Political Science. On top of her studies, she is also a member of the Turning Point USA chapter.

Angelina was homeschooled and from a young age and an active member of her community and church.

She serves on her church's Youth Worship Team and leads the Junior High Girls Bible Study.

Outside of her involvement at church, she leads her Texas 4-H program.



# Allyson Reyna

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY –  
COLLEGE STATION, TX

Hometown: Spring Branch, Texas

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Allyson is an upperclassman at Texas A&M University, studying history.

Outside of the classroom, Allyson utilizes her God-given abilities to serve others and proclaim the Good News. Whether she is spending time in the local church or cultivating on-campus organizations, Allyson works to develop like-minded and edifying community for those in Christ — proclaiming truth and glorifying God.

Through church, she has served in childcare, led in youth camps, and taught in Sunday School. She founded a Young Women for America chapter at Texas A&M, which is catered towards young Christian women who promote and protect Biblical values and Constitutional principles.



# Sarah Prentice

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK,  
BROCKPORT – BROCKPORT, NY

Hometown: Rochester, New York

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Sarah studies political science at State College of New York, Brockport. She is involved with Turning Point USA and LI's Campus Reform website.

Sarah attends two different weekly bible studies in addition to one-on-one discipleship with a personal mentor. She's always looking for ways to serve and grow spiritually.

Sarah is passionate about her love for Jesus, the Word of God, and any way she can serve Christ. She loves her country and is passionate about conservative politics. Sarah always looks to fill her time with either Christian fellowship or political engagement.



*“There is no limit to the amount of good you can do if you don’t care who gets the credit.”*

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**RONALD REAGAN**

## **Kathrine Painter**

**VERITAS PRESS SCHOLARS ACADEMY – HOUSTON, TX**

Hometown: Houston, Texas

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Kathrine is from Houston, Texas, and grew up in church. She started serving throughout different ministries when she was around 12 years old.

Kathrine is currently one of the leaders of her church youth group. Part of her responsibilities for the group has included organizing, evangelism outreach programs, a bus route, ministry, and many events that help people discover Jesus.

## **Isaiah Rios**

**BRADLEY UNIVERSITY – PEORIA, IL**

Home Country: Mexico

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Isaiah is studying business management and leadership at Bradley University. He grew up in the church and committed his life to Christ in 6th grade. Since then, he’s had plenty of struggles with his faith, but recently he’s been closer to God than ever, and now is looking forward to transitioning to ministering to others.

Isaiah is most passionate about the Gospel and it being presented accurately. Nothing makes him happier than when a friend asks about it or he can have deep theological discussions.

In the political area, abortion is his number one issue. Gun rights next, then immigration. Coming from Mexican heritage, Isaiah believes in stronger borders but a simplified route to citizenship.



## Ava Standish

LIBERTY UNIVERSITY – LYNCHBURG, VA

Hometown: Seattle, Washington

Ava is studying Government Politics and Policy at Liberty University where she has opportunities both for spiritual growth and a great education.

She serves as Vice-President of Students for Life and Secretary of Network of Enlightened Women. Ava also works in the Helms School of Government planning events and assisting professors.

Ava believes in serving the Kingdom on campus as well. So, she volunteers as a Community Group Leader on campus. In that role, Ava serves as a spiritual leader in her hall and looks after the spiritual health of other residents by leading weekly Bible studies and sermon discussions. In the summers, Ava counsels at her church's children's camp. There, she has the opportunity to share the life changing news of the gospel with kids who have never heard it.

Ava feels the Lord leading her to pursue a career in law and policy. She is especially passionate about defending children's rights and combating human rights abuses. She prays at Planned Parenthood weekly, leads drives for pregnancy resource clinics, and educate her fellow students.



## Grace Stiger

WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY – SPOKANE, WA

Hometown: Bothell, Washington

Grace Stiger is from Bothell, Washington, and is currently in her last year at Whitworth University. She is pursuing her degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Reading and English Language Learners.

On campus, Grace is a member and Secretary for Whitworth's Students for Life Club. She also recently chartered a Network of Enlightened Women chapter on her campus. She serves as the secretary for her NeW chapter and is taking on the role of president for her Turning Point USA chapter.

Upon graduation, Grace hopes to teach second grade. In her free time, Grace enjoys traveling, baking, and spending time with family and friends. Grace was the Programs/Events Intern for Leadership Institute in Summer 2022.



# Marija Scheuren

AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY – AVE MARIA, FL

Hometown: Orlando, Florida

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Marija Scheuren is from Central Florida and is enrolled at Ave Maria University to study medicine and theology.

Marija became interested in politics as she saw political corruption in every occupation she's practiced throughout her professional and student life.

“Working as a tutor, phlebotomist, ophthalmic tech, bookkeeper, sales associate, hostess, and waitress, have revealed some difficult situations. Steps should have been taken to prevent corruption from seeping its way into people's professional career (especially medicine!)”

Marija was inspired to become a conservative student activist because she was tired of talking about the changes that needed to be performed. She says, “A person is only as good as they do, not as they say, so I wanted to actively participate and promote the changes we needed to initiate.”

As she pursues a career in the medical field, Marija wants to inspire others to return to traditional and moral values.



*“Leadership is learned, earned, and discerned. You develop it. It’s based on trust and credibility. Others see it in you. You can’t demand it.”*

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**RICK WARREN**

# Janey Whitney

**FAULKNER UNIVERSITY THOMAS GOODE JONES SCHOOL OF LAW – MONTGOMERY, AL**

Hometown: Birmingham, Alabama

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Janey Whitney is in her third year of law school at Faulkner University. She serves as president of both the Federalist Society chapter and the Jones Public Interest Law Foundation.

Janey was nominated for most outstanding first year law student at Faulkner. Janey is originally from Birmingham, Alabama, and holds a BA from Samford University in Law, Politics, and Society.

In addition to attending law school, she is interning with the Alabama Center for Law and Liberty as well as with Chief Federal Magistrate Judge Stephen Doyle.

Janey has worked in Alabama politics and was recognized as Young Republican Woman of the Year in 2021. She recently worked in the Alabama Secretary of State's Elections Division as an Elections Analyst.

Janey has ambitions to serve in public interest and defend constitutional rights following graduation from law school.



# Megan Young

**LIBERTY UNIVERSITY – LYNCHBURG, VA**

Hometown: Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

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Megan is studying business administration at Liberty University, where she is on track to graduate in December 2023.

Megan is a member of the Evangelical Free Church of America and is passionate about connecting with and supporting young women who are struggling with unwanted pregnancies, especially on college campuses.

Having been raised by Godly parents, Megan was taught the Bible from a young age, and she came to trust Jesus Christ with her life in middle school.

The Gospel is the foundation on which she has built her beliefs on all other things such as conservative politics, the pro-life movement, free market economics, and health freedom.



# CHRISTIAN STATESMAN CONFERENCE

The capstone of the Christian Leaders Program is the Christian Statesman Conference. At the end of June, the Leadership Institute hosted 40 young Christian Leaders for the inaugural Christian Statesman Conference. These students from across America gathered in the nation's capital to learn about the history of the conservative movement, professional development skills, and living out the Christian faith in their personal and professional lives. Some of the attendees are featured in this booklet.



These young men and women heard speeches and lectures from Christian professionals working in the public policy sector. These students learned professional development skills such as resume building and networking. They heard lectures on how to live out their faith in the workplace, share the gospel with others, and fight for Christian values in the public sphere. The speakers included Jeremiah Loring, Deputy Director of Generation Joshua, who spoke to the students about biblical principles in American history, and Calvin Baylock, Chief of Staff for Invictus Strategies, who spoke about faith in the workplace.

The students also learned about the important role that faith plays in the life of the nation. The attendees visited the Museum of the Bible in Washington, DC, where they learned how the message of the gospel permeates American culture. They attended the Faith and Freedom

Coalition's Road to Majority Conference, where they witnessed what actively fighting for Christian principles in politics looks like in practice.

The keynote speaker of LI's Christian Statesman Conference was Riley Gaines, the conservative activist and former NCAA athlete. Riley (*above*) shared with the students her story about standing up for what is right and what is true even when no one else will. She also spoke about how her Christian faith plays a strong role in her activism. A recent college graduate herself, Riley provides an excellent role model for these young Christian Leaders.

The experience and skills gained from this week-long conference will allow these young Christian Leaders to be witnesses for the gospel on their campuses and in the workplace. The Leadership Institute looks forward to welcoming more Christian Leaders to Arlington for another Christian Statesman Conference next year.



**40 Students**

**16 States**

**31 Universities**



*“How great it was to be surrounded by like-minded Christians who share political views! Iron sharpens iron, and thanks to the donors, I was able to make this trip and be equipped to fight the good fight on my campus.”*

**JADEN HEARD**  
Auburn University



## A Note from Program Manager Amanda Spiers

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I look forward to seeing how this new program will change lives by helping immerse Christian students in the political process and launch their careers. I, too, got my start in politics by attending conferences, a Youth Leadership School, and working with mentors. I am so happy to be able to pass these opportunities along to other young leaders.

My vision for this program is that Christian students who have a heart for this country will find their place in the conservative movement. I want to help them lean into their passions toward patriotism and politics while not betraying their Bible-based beliefs.

*Amanda Spiers*



AMANDA SPIERS  
LI's Christian  
Leaders Program  
Manager

## About Amanda Spiers

In her role, Amanda travels to college campuses across the country to identify talented Christian students and recruit them for mentorship by the Leadership Institute.

Previously, Amanda worked as a Senior Regional Field Coordinator for the Leadership Institute where she led a team of eight field staff and mobilized hundreds of politically inclined students throughout Florida.

Amanda was homeschooled and is currently pursuing a degree online in business management from Liberty University. Amanda remains active in the homeschooling community and has attended several of the nation's leading homeschool training programs and conferences.

Amanda has worked with churches across denominations in various capacities, including volunteer work at ministry conferences across the US, in the marketplace, and children's ministry. Currently, Amanda serves in youth ministry at her home church in Washington DC.

## How to Support the Christian Leaders Program

For more information about how to support the **Christian Leaders Program**, contact:

**John Davis**

Leadership Institute  
Vice President for  
Growth & Development

(703) 647-3320

[John@email.leadershipinstitute.org](mailto:John@email.leadershipinstitute.org)

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The Leadership Institute is classified by the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) educational foundation. The Institute does not support or oppose candidates or proposed legislation. Contributions to the Leadership Institute by individuals, corporations, and foundations are tax-deductible.



WHERE CONSERVATIVE LEADERS ARE MADE

Steven P.J. Wood Building  
1101 North Highland Street • Arlington, VA 22201  
(703) 247-2000

[WWW.LEADERSHIPINSTITUTE.ORG](http://WWW.LEADERSHIPINSTITUTE.ORG)

*“Put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. Take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

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**EPHESIANS 6:13-17**