# Aspiring Ed-Leaders Program

The Aspiring Ed-Leaders Program is a 5 year development program for aspiring school leaders that is offered by Teaching Trust, a non-profit organization devoted to leadership development in urban schools, in partnership with SMU's Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education. This unique partnership provides the traditional coursework associated with a master's degree and a robust in-school residency that focuses on leadership in action. Program participants will graduate with a Master's in Educational Leadership with Urban School Specialization from SMU. This is complemented by field experience, ongoing support, and mentorship provided by Teaching Trust.
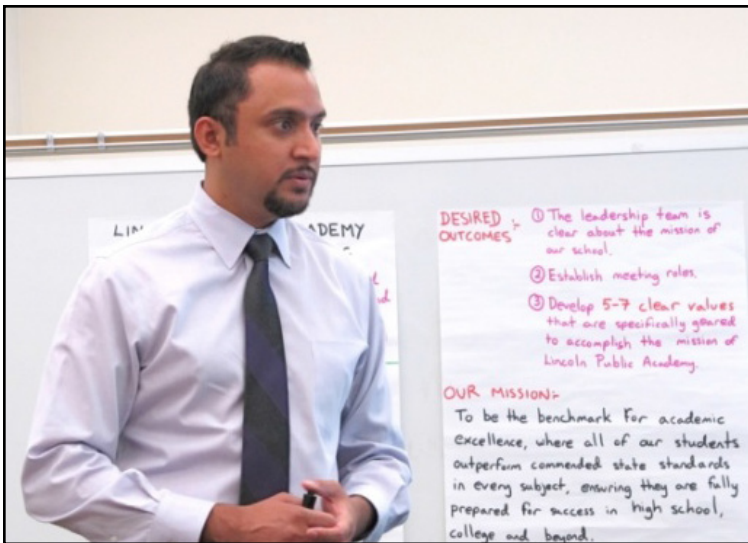
"Over a very short period of time, a level of trust developed within the cohort that allowed me to practice taking risks in a safe and comfortable environment. Although the risk taking during the summer intensive provided many opportunities of discomfort, the practice I have gained from putting myself out there has helped me tremendously. I have found that taking calculated risks as a leader has become second nature, and I use this as a means for creating a safe environment for the benefit of my department."
- Ali Saiyed, Cohort 1, Principal at Robert E. Lee Elementary in Dallas ISD.

Program Overview

Year 1: Coursework. Your first year in the program will primarily be spent taking classes at SMU to earn credit hours towards your degree. These classes are taught by faculty from SMU's Simmons School of Education, SMU's Cox School of Business, and Teaching Trust. At the end of the year, you will receive a probationary principal certification.

Year 2: Residency. Working with your district and Teaching Trust, you will find a placement as a school leader who is responsible for coaching several teachers and developing a high-achieving school culture. In this role, you will be supported by mentor principals, faculty from SMU, and experienced coaches from Teaching Trust.

Years 3-5: Ongoing Support. As you enter official positions of school leadership, you will be supported by Teaching Trust coaches through monthly campus visits, residency days, and summer sessions. To facilitate this part of the program, you will be required to remain in a leadership role in one of our partner districts.

Benefits Unique to this Program

- Rigorous pre-admission assessment process
- Summer Intensive with national faculty
- Second-year full-time residency with a mentor principal
- Ongoing support after the M.Ed.
- Extensive competency based feedback
- Core competency framework

Focus Areas of this Program

- Planning, observation, feedback, and professional development for instructional leadership
- Constructing and managing a culture of leadership
- Developing and sustaining trust with diverse constituents
- Using data to drive student achievement
- Strategic planning, and project management
- Local and professional policy

To learn more, contact **leadnow@teachingtrust.org**

Transforming Education at its Core

Aspiring Ed-Leaders Program

What We Look For In Applicants

Strong Values. Successful school leaders all share several common values: high expectations for all students, a commitment to educational equity, a reflection and growth mindset, courage and resilience in the face of adversity, an ability to inspire and influence others, and a results-focused orientation. Every step of our selection process is designed to identify and evaluate these values.

Exceptional Instruction. As a school leader, a primary responsibility will be to evaluate and develop teachers and staff. To be effective in this job, we expect applicants to have a history of leading high performing classrooms. Candidates with a strong track-record of classroom management, high-impact instructional strategies, modified learning, and data-driven instruction are ideal fits for the program.

Commitment to Urban School Leadership. The Aspiring Ed-Leaders Program requires a 5-year commitment from its candidates to a career of ensuring that all students achieve at high-levels.

Eligibility Requirements

- 2+ years of teaching experience
- Commitment to work at an urban school
- Recommendation from your supervisor
- Meet all SMU Graduate School admission requirements
- Meet Teaching Trust competency requirements

How to Apply

The first step in the application process is to submit an online application by visiting *teachingtrust.org/leadership-programs/apply-to-be-an-ed-leader*.

"The SMU/Teaching Trust summer intensive helped me develop an acute sense of self-awareness. Not only do I have a better sense of my blind spots and areas of growth, I have been provided with the tools to address them. For example…I have acquired concrete procedures and the language to… challenge a team practice that is not in the best interest of the student."
- **Kelsey Blackwell, Cohort 1, Associate Principal at Hampton Prep in Uplift Education and former Teach for America corps member.**

Early Acceptance Timeline

Jan. 20	**Early Application Deadline**
Jan. 24-29	Phone Interviews
Feb. 1-11	Assessment Centers
Feb. 12-15	Final Interviews
Feb. 17	Award Letters Delivered*
Feb. 28	Applicant's Decision Due
Jun. 7	Summer Intensive Begins

Final Acceptance Timeline

Feb. 21	**Final Application Deadline**
Feb. 26-28	Phone Interviews
Mar. 6-15	Assessment Centers
Mar. 17-20	Final Interviews
Mar. 21	Award Letters Delivered*
Apr. 1	Applicant's Decision Due
Jun. 7	Summer Intensive Begins

*Please note: after you are awarded a letter by the Teaching Trust, you will need to finish applying through SMU. Please consult the SMU website for important dates and information.

Program Cost

Teaching Trust and SMU both offer extensive financial support for the Aspiring Ed-Leaders Program. Because of these contributions, **the total cost to a participant is $10,000.** Many participants may be eligible for additional, third-party scholarships, or financial aid. Teach for America alumni can apply their AmeriCorps education grants towards the cost of enrollment.

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