



# Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows 108th Congress Program

The Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows Program is a practical, bipartisan leadership development experience for senior-level staff of the United States Congress. The program, sponsored by the Stennis Center for Public Service, focuses on future challenges of Congress as an institution and the leadership role played by senior congressional staff in meeting those challenges.

In each Congress, 24 to 28 Stennis Fellows are selected by an independent panel. Each group is balanced with nearly equal numbers from both political parties and both chambers. The program mission is to:

- Enhance the capacity and commitment of exceptional senior-level staff members to “Look Ahead” to what will be needed to better serve Congress and its Members in a world of rapid change;
- Foster dialogue and the exchange of ideas among senior-level staff members, and create a growing network of bipartisan, bicameral working relationships;
- Produce a useful result – an ongoing legacy of learning – for those who care about the long-term effectiveness of Congress as a governing institution; and
- Recognize and honor senior level staff of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in public service.

Stennis Fellows meet periodically over a 12 to 15-month period of fellowship. Times and locations are selected to be convenient to the Fellows.

## Learning Agenda

One of the unique features of the Stennis Fellows Program is that Fellows set and pursue their own learning agenda within a core theme. The program invites nationally and internationally renowned experts to meet with the Stennis Fellows and stimulate their thinking during the fellowship. While learning from these outside authorities is a unique opportunity, even more important is the dialogue, learning and relationship building that takes place among the Stennis Fellows. At the conclusion of the fellowship period, Fellows develop conclusions from their learning experience and, with the assistance of Stennis Center staff, prepare a report for the Congressional leadership and others interested in the future of the United State Congress as an institution of American democracy.

Stennis Fellows in each Congress build on the work of prior groups of Fellows. Learning agenda topics in past Congresses have included:

- implications of a global economy for congressional operations;

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- governance and the information age;
- Congress and the media;
- demographic change in the coming decade;
- changing national security environment;
- institutional structure and partisanship in Congress; and
- citizen engagement.

The Stennis Fellows Program is not an advocacy effort. Application of the ideas developed through the fellowship to the legislative environment is a matter of individual choice.

## 108th Congress Fellows Program

Building on the work of Stennis Fellows in prior Congresses, the core theme that will be examined by the 108th Congress Stennis Fellows is building greater trust and civility both within Congress and across society. A level of trust and civility is necessary for democracy to work well and for governance to be effective. Without a basic shared framework of mutual understanding, trust and civility, legitimate and effective change is very difficult to initiate or sustain.

Stennis Fellows in previous Congresses have underlined that the challenge of building trust and civility is becoming both more important and more difficult in the face of 21st century realities that include:

- A rising tide of public cynicism and mistrust of institutions of all sorts (business, religious, charitable and media as well as political);
- The increasing fragmentation of our society, and growing gaps between rich and poor, leading to a multiplication of groups with very different values, assumptions and worldviews, and too little life experience in common;
- A proliferation of single interest organizations advocating narrow viewpoints;
- Greater partisanship and polarization within Congress and other governing institutions;
- Increases in disrespect and rudeness, and a decline in common courtesy that Americans report in their dealings with government, business and each other;
- The burgeoning role of the media with its tendency to accentuate conflict;
- The effects of a cascade of corporate scandals that undermine confidence;
- A greater sense of insecurity and uncertainty in the aftermath of 9/11 and in the midst of a war on terrorism that may continue for a long time.

Stennis Fellows of the 108th Congress will set and pursue their own learning agenda within this broad theme, looking ahead 10 years to focus on ways to build greater trust and civility both within Congress and across society.

Recognizing the complexity of the congressional calendar and the responsibilities of senior-level staff, most sessions are scheduled on a Monday or Friday with input from Fellows on the selection of dates and times. Overnight retreats are usually at locations within driving distance of Capitol Hill. A few elective sessions that augment the learning process may also be offered. The Stennis Center will pay tuition, meals and lodging for the core program. Stennis Fellows will be responsible for incidental expenses and any transportation within driving distance of Capitol Hill.

### Calendar Highlights

March 10, 2003 .....	Nominations/nominee profiles due
April 2003 .....	Selection Committee finalizes selections
May 2003 .....	Invitations issued to 108th Congress Stennis Fellows
June 2003 .....	Welcoming Reception
July 2003 .....	Inaugural Meeting – set Learning Agenda
July to October 2003 .....	Working groups on roundtable topics and outside experts
October 2003 .....	Overnight retreat to finalize Learning Agenda; workshop on dialogue process to be used throughout fellowship
November 2003 to April 2004 .....	Roundtable sessions with leading experts on major questions of Learning Agenda (single half-day meetings or multiple sessions requiring an overnight stay)
May 2004 .....	Overnight retreat to synthesize Learning Agenda
July 2004 .....	Awards and Celebration dinner

# Eligibility

Stennis Fellows, who must be nominated by a Member of Congress, are senior-level congressional staff such as committee staff directors, chiefs of staff/administrative assistants, legislative directors, counsels, and senior professional staff. Nominees should demonstrate:

- A track record of leadership in key staff positions (personal or committee) characterized by senior management responsibility and involvement in significant aspects of the legislative process;
- A reputation for statesmanship – caring for the evolution of Congress and the political system as a whole;
- Significant career commitment to public service, with special emphasis on Congress;
- A desire to make a significant contribution to further the mission of the program; and
- A commitment to learn and fully participate in the responsibilities of the fellowship.

Nominations of high-potential staffers with limited Hill experience will also be considered. Renominations of senior level staff not selected in prior Congresses are encouraged. The ability to participate fully in the program is a prerequisite to being appointed and retaining the designation of Stennis Fellow.

The Stennis Center seeks diversity in the Fellows Program and does not discriminate among individual nominees on the basis of race, religion, sex, national or ethnic origin, disability, or veteran status.

## Stennis Fellows Profile

More than 130 Stennis Fellows have completed their fellowship and are now known as Senior Fellows. Many continue to serve in the Congress where their combined service totals well over 2000 years. More than half of the Senior Fellows had ten years of experience or more at the time of their selection as a Stennis Fellow. Fifteen percent had twenty years of experience or more while thirteen percent were selected as Stennis Fellows with five years of experience or less.

## Stennis Center for Public Service

The John C. Stennis Center for Public Service was created by Congress in 1988 to promote and strengthen public service leadership in America. The Stennis Center is headquartered in Starkville, Mississippi, with an office in Washington, DC. Programs of the Stennis Center are funded through an endowment plus private contributions.

The Stennis Center's mandate is to provide development and training for leaders in public service, including congressional staff, and to attract young people to careers in public service leadership. The Stennis Center accomplishes its mission through conferences, seminars, special projects, and leadership development programs.

## Fellows Program Staff

Rex G. Buffington, II .....	Executive Director
Mary Dewald .....	Assistant Director for Civil Military Programs
Tricia Hollis .....	Assistant Director for Congressional Programs
Janet McKell .....	Administrative Secretary
Steven Rosell .....	President, Viewpoint Learning

# Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows 103rd through 107th Congress

## 103rd Congress

Leslie L. Atkinson  
David Bartel  
William Black  
Steven T. Bosacker  
Mark H. Brown  
Donald G. Carlson  
James H. Dykstra  
James M. Eagen, III  
Christine C. Ferguson  
James M. Guthrie  
W. Roger Gwinn  
Nicholas Hayes  
Suzanne C. Hildick  
Robert H. Hurt  
J. Keith Kennedy  
David Krawitz  
James M. Kulikowski  
TerriAnn Lowenthal  
Robert J. Ludwiczak  
Susan Aheron Magill  
Kari J. Moe  
Kathy A. Ormiston  
Arnold L. Punaro  
Grace A. Reef  
Marda J. Robillard  
Phillip W. Rotondi  
Robert M. Rozen  
Robert P. Savitt  
Carlottia A. W. Scott  
Robert V. Seltzer  
Kelly M. Sharbel, Jr.  
Dennis G. Smith  
Leonard Weiss  
Ellen Jones Whitt

## 104th Congress

Judith A. Blanchard  
Moses Boyd  
T. Scott Bunton  
Joseph R. Crapa  
Fariborz S. Fatemi  
Mark Alan Forman  
Jane A. Gorsuch  
Thomas E. Harvey  
Susan K. Hattan  
Dorothy R. Jackson  
Albert Steven Jacquesz  
William Mansel Long  
Thomas O. Melius

Alan Bruce Mertz  
Eleanor Nash-Brown  
David Alan Nathan  
Holly E. Propst  
Matthew A. Reynolds  
Arthur D. Rhodes  
Douglas D. Ritter, Jr.  
J. Thomas Slifer  
Charles C. Stephenson, Jr.  
Steven Richards Valentine  
Mark E. Van de Water  
Patrick Von Bargen  
Donald R. Wolfensberger

## 105th Congress

Chuck Atkins  
Daniel E. Bob  
Ann Brozek-Jablón  
Manus M. Cooney  
Thomas A. Daffron  
Robert L. Dibblee  
Stephenie Foster  
Scott B. Gudes  
Cheryl Lynn Johnson  
Daniel J. Keniry  
Tamera S. Luzzatto  
David S. Lyles  
Christopher James Mansour  
Nora Baumeister Matus  
John W. McCamman  
Katherine B. McGuire  
Susy Stout Smith  
John T. Stirrup, Jr.  
Liz Tankersley  
Ted Van Der Meid  
Heea Vazirani-Fales  
Connie Ann Veillette  
Andrew Vermilye  
Trudy A. Vincent  
Gregory W. Waddell

## 106th Congress

Carolyn Apostolou  
Paul S. Bock  
Richard R. Boykin  
Mark Brownell  
James Derderian  
Rochelle Suzanne Dornatt  
Suzanne F. Farmer  
Kevin I. Fromer

Linda Gustitus  
Michael S. Hershey  
Kristine A. Iverson  
Nils W. Johnson  
Kevin D. Kayes  
John Wilcox Lampmann  
Diane Liesman  
D. Gray Maxwell  
Patrick O. McGarey  
David Pomerantz  
John D. Schelble  
Wendy K.D. Selig  
Robert M. Simon  
Mark Strand  
Roger R. Szemraj  
Stephen Dorsey Vermillion III  
Marie G. Wheat  
Andrew Wheeler  
Mildeen G. Worrell  
Richard A. (Rowdy) Yeates

## 107th Congress

Corine Larson Bradshaw  
Joyce Brayboy  
Cassandra Q. Butts  
Kenneth M. Connolly  
James K. Conzelman  
Rebecca M. Davies  
Robert F. Dobek  
Michael W. Evans  
Caroline R. Fredrickson  
Raissa H. Geary  
Andrew W. Givens  
Angus M. (Don) Green, Jr.  
Thomas P. Hawkins  
Richard J. Healy  
Charles J. Houy  
Clinton Columbus Jones III  
Kay Atkinson King  
Peter K. Levine  
Christopher J. Miller  
Kimberly C. Parker  
Lori Groves Rowley  
Nicole Venable Smith  
Kate Sparks  
Damon P. Tobias  
Andrew B. Willison