

The Eli J. & Phyllis N. Segal

CITIZEN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Celebrating 15 Years



Over 50 Segal Fellows, including Fellows from the first group selected in 2008, joined with Segal Founders and partners at the 2023 Fellow Retreat and 15th Anniversary. Our 15th celebrated “The Impact of Together,” shared ways The Segal Program is inspiring and empowering generations of citizen leaders, and awarded the 2023 Segal Fellow in Action Award to Damond Ford (more inside). We are grateful for the growing community of over 150 Segal Fellows and our Segal Network, who inspire one another and collaborate towards action.

“Among the many things I admired about my dad, Eli Segal, and continue to admire about my mom, Phyllis Segal, is not just what they have done to increase opportunity and improve our society, but also how they have gone about doing it, and with whom.

For the past 15 years, The Segal Program has been supporting its Fellows, not only to get things done for others, but also to help them with the how and the with whom. Like my mom and dad, Segal Fellows inspire me with their remarkable leadership traits, including their curiosity, humility, compassion, and fierce determination.

Like the relationships my mom and dad cultivated over their lives as they worked in service of others, Segal Fellows have been fostering a network of people who lean on each other, who encourage each other’s growth and who lead change together.”

Mora Segal, Segal Founder and Advisory Board Chair
15TH ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS TO THE SEGAL PROGRAM

Learn more at Segal.Brandeis.edu



Damond Ford Challenges Fellows to Defy Fear

2023 SEGAL FELLOW IN ACTION AWARDEE INSPIRES AT 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

For the past 12 years, Damond has been an active Segal Fellow, engaging deeply with other Fellows and the Network. In November 2022, he was elected as a New Hampshire State Representative. All this, on top of working as Associate Director of the NH GEAR UP Alliance, serving on nonprofit boards, volunteering in his daughters' school, and earning his MBA from Western Governors University, among other community commitments.

After his election, Damond shared, "The Segal Network helped get me to this place by recognizing that my citizen leadership journey was ready for the next step. Fellows and Founders supported me in this election."

In accepting the 2023 Award, Damond explained:

"At my very first retreat back in 2012, one of the Fellows said, 'one day, someone in this room is going to give us the call and say, I'm running for office, and I need your help.' And in my head I said, 'Well, it's gonna be one of these awesome people who are already off to law school or one of the Brandeis folks, right?'"

And then, a few years later, I ran and won. But that was only in the shadows and in the footsteps of some other amazing Fellows.... So I wanted to thank all the Fellows in the room and around the country, because I follow your lead. You're an inspiration to me. I tell my students all the time, 'If you wanna be great, surround yourself with great people.'

This [Program] has really changed my life for the better in ways that I cannot describe.... I've gained friends. I've gained confidants. I've gained partners, and collaborators, and agitators. I will continue to be a mentor. I will continue to be a mentee.... I will continue to carry the legacy of Segal with me.

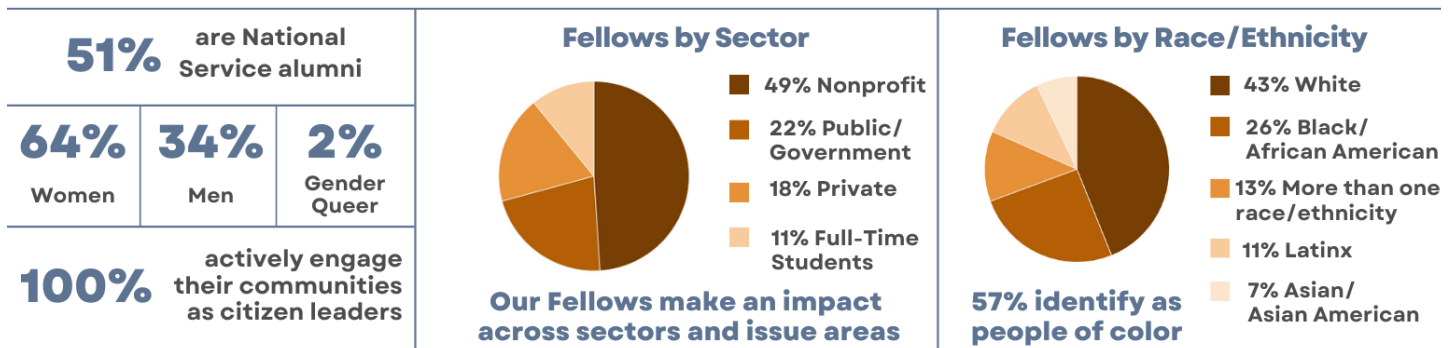
It's about making change and showing other people that you don't need to do what Damond does. You don't have to be on the boards and do 'all the things.' **You need to do what you can do, where you are... right where you are. When we act small, but think globally: that's where the change comes....**

If you have desire to run for political office, do it. I was so afraid [when I ran]... But that fear is telling you you're on the right path. That's what fear does. Fear gets in the way and says, 'Hey, you're going the right way, but maybe you should think about it first.' No! 'Get out the way, fear! I have change that I need to do.'

So as you leave tonight, and you go back into your communities, and fear gets in the way... as my daughter would say, 'punch fear in the stomach', and make that change. Because it's up to each of us. If all of us do our small part, we have a huge, big, impact..... 157 Segal Fellows, plus 400+ Founders. Right? All those people. That's the change! And so we need to recognize that each of us have a role to play, and we should play it."

15 Years Developing The Next Generation of Leaders

Our 157 Lifelong Segal Fellows:



“We are a network of cogenerational leaders supporting each other doing work that cuts across all sectors and all places. That’s not very common in this world. This Segal Fellow community is one of the most diverse communities I know, and I do deeply believe that **our strength comes from our diversity....** I’m also very proud of the space we’re creating, through retreats like this weekend and programming throughout the year, often led by Fellows, where **Fellows talk constructively about differing views and work together on hard challenges. At a time when dialogue and collaboration are pretty rare, we are doing that....**

The most urgent problem we face, one which I believe is necessary in order to solve all others, is for our democracy to live up to its potential. Frankly, it is for our democracy to survive. We have been living through dark times, but I truly believe in the proverb that is always darkest before the dawn. **Being here with you, feeling your energy, knowing your sense of purpose and commitment to improving our society for everyone, seeing your compassion and friendship with each other is what gives me hope. My charge is for you to go for it. In Eli’s words, ‘Go forth and make waves!’** With this community surrounding you in support and encouragement... be the agents of change, get things done, so we all will see that dawn again.”

Phyllis Segal, Segal Program Founder and Namesake

15TH ANNIVERSARY ADDRESS TO THE SEGAL PROGRAM

The Impact of Together



Our 15th Anniversary panel on “The Impact of Together: Segal Citizen Leaders Strengthening Communities” was facilitated by Maria Madison (Interim Heller Dean) and included AnnMaura Connolly (Segal Founder and Voices for National Service President), Kareen Vares (2017 Service Year Alliance Segal Fellow) and John Valinch (2018 Heller MPP Segal Fellow). They spoke about the ways they make an impact in and with their communities – through national service, leading community initiatives, and in the jobs they hold – and how the Segal Fellowship and Eli Segal have inspired and supported their work. John shared that, beyond his full-time role at Groundwork USA, one of his deep community commitments is as Co-President of Comunidades Enraizadas in his hometown of Chelsea, MA. The organization is an immigrant and women led community land trust working in Chelsea to stop displacement by acquiring land and developing affordable housing that stays affordable -forever-.



In 2023, 97% of Fellows reported that The Segal Program is helping them make a positive difference in the world and that The Segal Program is expanding their network of others committed to social justice.



“Thanks to the generosity of the Segal Program [Leadership Development Fund] I was able to attend the 2022 Labor Notes conference along with 4,000 other troublemakers from across the country.... At the conference, I got to learn from rank and file union activists from a variety of sectors, but I was most interested in hearing from teachers who are fighting to create more progressive and democratic teachers unions.... Because of the Segal Program, I built relationships with teacher activists and found a new movement home.”

Gabriel Fuentes

2018 BRANDEIS SEGAL FELLOW

“Because of the Segal Program, I am constantly surrounded by and reminded of the amazing ways to make this country and the world a better place. I can rely on fellows to be sounding boards for my ideas (and vice versa) to improve and shape my contributions to society.”



David Duhalde

2012 HELLER MPP SEGAL FELLOW



“The Segal Program has served as a consistent source of support, guidance, and encouragement as I have explored and grown in my career and citizen leadership. It’s affirming to have a group of people that are consistently encouraging and supporting my journey [wherever] it has taken me so far -- from D.C. to London to Boston and from new jobs to graduate school and other life moments.”

Renée Gaillard

2019 AMERICORPS ALUM SEGAL FELLOW

Thank you to our engaged and inspiring lifelong Segal Fellows and to our Segal Founders, partners, and donors, who come together to make our mission of inspiring and empowering generations of citizen leaders possible.

