

PLEN

The Public Leadership Education Network | Preparing Women to Lead

Who we are:

The Public Leadership Education Network (PLEN) is the only national organization with the sole focus of preparing college women for leadership in the public policy arena.

What we do:

Each year, PLEN brings college women from across the country to Washington, D.C. to experience first-hand how public policy is made. We focus each seminar on policy fields such as science, technology, the law, or international relations so that our students are prepared with the specialized knowledge, skills, and connections that they need to successfully launch their policy careers.

Students meet and learn from women leaders who influence public policy at the highest levels in the Congress, courts, federal agencies, executive branch, corporate sector, policy research, advocacy organizations, and the news media. These women leaders serve as teachers and mentors who share advice about starting out in the policy world.

Where we came from:

Founded in 1978 by a consortium of women's colleges, PLEN has served thousands of women since our first Women & Public Policy Seminar in 1983. In recent years, 45 percent of our students are women of color or from groups under-represented in the policy arena. Additionally, nontraditional students attend who use this experience to launch a new career.

PLEN members include some of the nation's oldest women's colleges such as Barnard College, Mount Holyoke College, and Smith College; coordinate colleges like Douglass Residential College of Rutgers and the Newcomb College Institute of Tulane University; and co-educational institutions with a commitment to advancing women's leadership such as Hood College and Carlow University.

Why we do it:

Women are still significantly under-represented in this country's public decision-making process, as members of legislative bodies, the courts, government agencies, non-profit groups, and private corporations that impact policy. College women who participate in our programs are uniquely prepared to enter the public leadership pipeline because of their experience with PLEN.

As a national leadership organization committed to educating and training the next generation of women leaders, PLEN and our members share the conviction that programs designed specifically for women are critical to the development of women leaders in our society.

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Six Reasons to become a PLEN Member

- 1) Member institutions offer their students unparalleled opportunities through PLEN by complementing their on-campus curriculum with real-world, skill building and career networking experiences in Washington, D.C. Our career launching programs strongly influence our participants, with **eight out of ten students saying their PLEN experience will strongly influence their academic and career decisions.**
- 2) **PLEN schools serve their students' growing interest in public sector careers and public service.** Now more than ever, college women are pursuing public leadership careers and see participation in PLEN programs as critical to achieving their goals.
- 3) **PLEN member schools are a network of the preeminent academic institutions across the country who are committed to advancing women's leadership.** PLEN Campus Representatives at each member school can create national connections with like-minded higher education administrators through PLEN. Students from member schools have the unique opportunity of meeting with their peers from across the country while participating in a seminar in Washington, D.C.
- 4) **Students who have participated in PLEN have an advantage in applying for jobs and grad school.** According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 60 percent of Americans get their job through networking. PLEN's rich and diverse network of alumna, speakers, and other volunteers provide our students with life-long career resources and support. Notable active PLEN alumnae include Alejandra Ceja, Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics; Christine Turner, Director at National Security Council, The White House; and Laurie Halverson, State House Representative, Minnesota.
- 5) Member colleges know that their institution, faculty, and students **realize considerable financial savings** through membership in PLEN. **Students at member institutions enjoy program fee discounts of nearly 50 percent.** Member colleges appreciate the monetary and personnel resources they save because PLEN offers six annual public policy and leadership programs in Washington, D.C. The annual membership contribution to PLEN is small compared to the cost to a single institution of mounting high quality program offerings like PLEN's.
- 6) PLEN membership **offers institutions a recruiting edge.** Prospective students are made aware that an impressive array of opportunities will be available to them at a PLEN member institution. Parents are keenly interested in the career connections offered students by PLEN through internships and direct contact with women leaders who open career doors for students and serve as mentors. Member schools can showcase the connections that their students make in Washington, D.C. through PLEN by featuring program schedules and photos of students meeting with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter, as well women members of the U.S. House of Representatives and United States Senate in admission and alumni publications.



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Seminar Fees for PLEN Programs 2015-2016

Seminar	Students from PLEN Member Institutions	Students from Non-Member Schools
Women, Business, and Policy October 2015	\$325	\$525
Women, Law, and Legal Advocacy October 2015	\$325	\$525
Women in STEM Policy January 2016	\$425	\$725
Women in Public Policy January 2016	\$425	\$725
Women Unlocking Nonprofits February 2015	\$325	\$525
Women and Congress March 2016	\$425	\$725
Women in Global Policy May 2016	\$425	\$725

All programs include the \$125.00 non-refundable registration fee.

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Membership Fees and Benefits:

Students from PLEN member institutions receive discounts on all PLEN seminars. Membership is open to all co-educational colleges and universities as well as specific departments, institutes or programs of those institutions. The annual membership fee for member institutions is \$3,150. Students attending member institutions pay nearly 50 percent less for program fees than students attending schools that are not members of PLEN.

Further information:

Institutions interested in membership will find additional information about PLEN's program offerings on its website: www.plen.org. Please feel free to contact PLEN with questions at plen@plen.org or at 202-872-1585.

To speak with a PLEN Institution Member School Representative about the impact that PLEN programs have had on their students, please reach out to the contact below.

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