

Point LEAD Symposiums

Leadership Education and Affinities Development

The purpose of LEAD symposiums is to foster professional development by offering scholars interactive examples of how to successfully integrate their fields of study with their passion for activism.

Each LEAD focuses on a specific course of study or professional field. At LEAD symposiums, many Point alumni volunteer their time to come back and speak to current scholars about their experiences as working professionals and how they navigate the workplace as LGBTQ leaders and activists.

What can you expect?

Leadership Education & Affinities Development (LEAD) Consortiums gather scholars, alumni, board members, and mentors from related professional/academic fields for a day and a half of interactive professional development workshops. LEADs provide a targeted focus on intended career path and future leadership, including direct access to potential jobs, internships, and professional relationships.

Fields of Focus

- Communication and Business
- Liberal Arts and Education
- Law and Public Policy
- Health and Medicine
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
- Arts and Entertainment

Past Panel and Discussion Topics

- Being LGBTQ+ in Academia
- Working with Administrations: Developing LGBTQ+ Specific Curriculum in Medicine
- LGBTQ+ Issues in International Law and Policy
- Working Outside the Box: When Your Job and Degree Don't Match

What our Scholars have to say about LEADs

"The overall weekend was pitch-perfect in tone, extremely well-organized, and so warmly hosted. The weekend had the right flow and provided ample time for scholars to mingle among themselves while building relationships and developing new resources. I was very impressed by the Alumni turnout and their willingness to lean in and contribute to the programming."

Regional Leadership Forums

The purpose of the Regional Leadership Forum (RLF) is to provide scholars with the opportunity to foster dialogue, establish personal connections, and build a community of scholar activists within a specific geographic area.

Every other year, Point gathers its scholars together for several RLFs in locations throughout the country. Here, scholars, alumni, staff, and board members meet to discuss issues that are impacting their local community and to strengthen personal connections with those who are creating positive change for LGBTQ people in the neighborhoods closest to them.

Where?

The locations of RLFs can change depending upon where Point is currently supporting the most scholars. In 2017, RLFs were held in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, New York, Washington DC, and Durham.

Who you can expect to meet and hear from at Point RLFs:

All members of Point's network in your respective geographic area – scholars, alumni, mentors, staff and board members – as well as leaders and members from partnering community organizations.

What our Scholars have to say about RLFs

“For me, as well as for many people I know at Point, the primary purpose of RLFs is reconnecting with local scholars, reigniting localized activism opportunities, and meeting the mentors and other folks who we don't usually see at national programs. The shared meal was nice, panels were well organized with folks from diverse experiences, and the conversations were thought provoking.”

National Leadership Conference

The Purpose of the National Leadership Conference is to convene the entire Point Foundation community, to empower scholars to further develop their leadership potential, and to provide an experience that strengthens their ability and resolve to make a significant impact on society.

The National Leadership Conference (NLC) brings together for a three-day program offering intensive training in areas such as leadership, LGBTQ history, career planning, community service and current events. Point Board members, alumni, staff, and scholars all take an active part in the events that make up the NLC.

Where?

Past NLCs have taken place in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Orlando, and Washington DC

Past Speakers

- Senator Tammy Baldwin
- Congressman David Cicilline
- Jason Collins, NBA Basketball player
- Judith Light, actress
- Congresswoman Kirsten Sinema
- Mara Keisling, Executive Director of National Center for Transgender Equality
- Our Lady J, Writer/Musician

What our Scholars have to say about the NLC

“Being an activist and scholar in the mid-west can be an isolating and exhausting experience. The National Leadership Conference gave me an opportunity to recharge. I feel lucky to be able to spend time with so many other Point Scholars and feel energized after hearing about all the great work they are doing.”