



GROWING LEADERS



WHAT IS LEAD MARYLAND?

The LEAD Maryland Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and operates the curriculum-based statewide LEAD Fellowship Program, in collaboration with numerous funders, supporters, and partners.

**LEAD MARYLAND FOUNDATION IS DEDICATED
TO IDENTIFYING AND DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP
TO SERVE AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES,
AND RURAL COMMUNITIES.**





WHY IS LEAD MARYLAND IMPORTANT?

LEAD Maryland increases the numbers and capacity of leaders serving Maryland agriculture, natural resources and rural communities. This is important because Maryland agriculture needs leaders who can:

- Stay informed about issues
- Offer working solutions
- Use networks to build support teams
- Promote the economic importance of agriculture
- Engage and educate the public about agriculture's positive roles and practices



HOW DOES LEAD MARYLAND DEVELOP LEADERS?

The LEAD Maryland Foundation awards a two-year fellowship to selected participants, creating classes of 20 to 25 emerging leaders. The LEAD Fellowship curriculum focuses on providing public issues education, skills building, leadership development and personal growth. Through program participation, Fellows become more equipped to solve problems, identify resources, engage and educate others, lead communities and shape public policy.





Photo by Susan Harrison



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WHO ARE LEAD MARYLAND'S FELLOWS?

Fellows represent a diversity of people with activities or interests in:

- production agriculture, farms;
- natural resources, forestry, aquaculture, and other natural resource-based industries;
- the environment;
- food processing, food sourcing, marketing and distribution;
- rural communities, services, and rural development; and
- business, communications, finance, education, government, policy, science, technology, nonprofits, law, conservation, land use, and many others within or serving agriculture, natural resources, and rural communities.



WHAT DOES THE LEAD FELLOWSHIP CURRICULUM INCLUDE?

During their time with LEAD Maryland, Fellows learn crucial skills through a rigorous curriculum. Activities include lectures, tours, assessments, mentorships, role-playing, teambuilding, projects, discussions and international travel study. Upon graduation, Fellows have a higher understanding of:

- Media communication
- Public speaking
- Conflict resolution
- Leadership
- Meaningful volunteer service
- How to work with government officials
- Fellows have a higher understanding of: Seeing oneself, communities, and issues differently through international travel experiences

In total, Fellows complete nine multi-day seminars and dedicate about 45 days of participation to LEAD Maryland over a two-year period.





WHY IS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL STUDY AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE LEAD FELLOWSHIP?

Through extensive preparation for international travel study, as well as the actual in-country experience, Fellows partake in an in-depth educational opportunity they otherwise would not have. Fellows bring knowledge, experience, and new ideas back to their communities, workplaces and local industries, strengthening their leadership abilities.

Travel study destinations have included the Netherlands and Belgium; Cuba; Brazil; China; Finland, Estonia and Russia; Hong Kong, Vietnam, and Taiwan; Chile; and South Africa.



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WHAT IS A FELLOW'S RETURN ON INVESTMENT THROUGH PARTICIPATION?

Via a program evaluation survey, LEAD Fellowship graduates reported the following:

- 100 percent said they have engaged and educated the public about the agricultural community's perspective of environmental issues.
- 73 percent of graduates who are farmers reported that their operations improved in some way because of what they learned through the program.
- 90 percent indicated that the skills and knowledge acquired through LEAD Maryland benefit them in their workplace.
- 84 percent learned to appreciate a greater diversity of ideas, people and perspectives.
- 88 percent met friends who remain important.





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HOW IS LEAD MARYLAND FUNDED?

The LEAD Maryland Foundation relies on grants, donations, events, tuition and other forms of support.



HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT LEAD MARYLAND?

For more information, please contact:
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