CAMPAIGN GOAL
INVESTING IN PUBLIC SERVICE CAREERS THROUGH STUDENT SUPPORT

Our nation’s well-being depends on those who are well prepared to serve the public and confront changes in governance, globalization, the economy, and yet unseen challenges. The Bush School is charged with educating these future public servants and is committed to competing for graduate students with the very best universities in the nation, which have long-established, well-funded, prestigious programs.

STUDENT NEED

The nation’s need for principled public service leaders is evident. While public and nonprofit service is indeed a noble calling, public careers are often less financially rewarding than those in the private sector. If we are going to attract the best and brightest and a diverse student body to public and international affairs education, we must ease the barriers to graduate study. We must offer adequate financial support so that students do not incur large debts during their graduate study and are not forced to choose higher paying jobs in the private sector in order to pay these debts.

Because of the rising visibility of the Bush School and the steadily increasing demand for highly qualified public sector and nonprofit graduates, the School already has seen significant enrollment growth and plans to continue this trend. While the increase confirms our belief that we are meeting student and national needs, it has also resulted in a significant reduction in scholarships on a per-student basis. The average Bush School scholarship now covers less than 20 percent of the total cost of attendance. The gap between rising costs and available scholarships can mean that students are incurring substantial debt from their undergraduate and graduate study. Indeed, the average student loan for Bush School degree study is $17,000 and many come to the School with undergraduate debt as well. This means that Bush School students are likely to accumulate some $40,000 or more in loans. A primary goal of this campaign is to provide more and larger scholarships so that prospective students do not have to consider other universities offering more attractive financial aid assistance and so Bush School graduates can enter public service with fewer financial burdens.

SCHOLARSHIPS

GIFT OPPORTUNITIES

MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS ★ The academic degree programs of the Bush School have a high need for merit scholarships to attract the best and brightest students pursuing public service careers. Endowments are a high priority as they provide student support in perpetuity. Endowed named fellowships covering the partial cost of attendance range from a minimum investment of $25,000 to cover 5 percent of actual costs per year to those endowed at $650,000 to address the full cost of attendance. The School can also accept non-endowed cash gifts or some combination of cash, property, or securities coupled with an endowment.

INTERNERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS ★ Nearly all Bush School students are required to fulfill a domestic or international internship experience, typically in the summer. Many internship opportunities with government agencies and nonprofit organizations are either non-salaried or fall substantially short of addressing living costs while off campus. Endowed named internship scholarships are available for donor support with a minimum investment of $50,000 for partial support to $150,000 for full support on behalf of students in domestic positions, or from $100,000 to $250,000 for students requiring an out-of-country experience.

STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS ★ Degree programs in the School enable general study abroad; and students in international affairs are required to develop an effective command of a foreign language, which often requires study abroad. Endowed named study abroad scholarships can be established for a minimum investment of $100,000 for partial support to $350,000 for full support for one semester.

DIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS ★ The Bush School aims to have a more diverse student body, including one with international students who bring cultural insights on many issues, and historically underserved students who enrich the student learning environment. Donors have an opportunity to invest in these students for a minimum of $250,000 for partial support to $650,000 for full support.