LSU | Office of Diversity

President's Millennial Scholars Program 2016-2017

About the Program

The **President's Millennial Scholars Program** is a newly created four year retention and professional preparation initiative designed to provide undergraduates from underrepresented populations and students of color with necessary skills for success during and after college. The goal of the program is to provide these students access to transformational opportunities that might not be easily accessed. The first two years the program concentrates on a student-centered approach to ensure academic and personal development. The last two years highlight career and professional development with a focus on internships and professional opportunities. Participating students must also maintain full-time status and a grade point average of 2.5.

2016 Reading Initiative

To strengthen scholars' cultural knowledge a book will be suggested by students and go under review for selection for our reading initiative for the year. Last year the scholars read Nine Lives by Dan Baum, a multi-voiced biography of a dazzling, surreal, and imperiled city, told through the lives of nine unforgettable characters and bracketed by two epic storms: Hurricane Betsy, which transformed New Orleans in the 1960s, and Hurricane Katrina, which nearly destroyed it.

How the Program Works

While matriculating in the President's Millennial Scholars Program, students have multiple opportunities to develop. To achieve these goals the program's staff connects scholars to campus and external resources to help with: career assessments, advising, counseling, scheduling, and creating successful study plans, student support programs, and social consciousness among others things.

Creating Community, Building Family

The program's staff is dedicated to the success of each scholar. Scholars are encouraged to attend diverse programs each semester including: professional/career workshops, professional development workshops, and community/global outreach programs.

Scholars participate in a monthly professional development opportunity and are encouraged to meet regularly with program staff to discuss academic progress, personal-social engagement, and career-professional related issues; and ascertain the services needed to achieve the stated goals.

Volunteer faculty mentors are also chosen for each student. The program resides in LSU's Office of Diversity.

President's Millennial Scholars Program
Program Staff

Dr. Kenya LeNoir Messer, Ed.D.
Associate Vice Provost for Diversity

Brandon Smith, MPA
Program Director

Jolie Dudley, Graduate Assistant

Rashad Bigham, Graduate Assistant