

IN THE ARENA

Forge Mentorships

Fall 2022





MEET THE ACADEMY

2022 - 2023

38
Academy
Members

28
Campuses

18
States



“There is **nothing** on this earth more to be prized than **true friendship**”

THOMAS AQUINAS



Visit Forgeleadership.org/2022Academy or scan the QR code to view profiles for all Academy members

FROM THE PRESIDENT



There's a problem facing young conservatives. No, I'm not talking about leftism on college campuses or media bias – as rampant as those things are. What young conservatives often face is a crisis of isolation.

When I was in college, I was involved with a Christian ministry called The Navigators. They are known for an emphasis on God's Word and "discipleship," a fancy term for spiritual mentorship. 2 Timothy 2:2 talks about the importance of discipleship when Paul directs Timothy, "what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also (ESV)." In college, the "Navs" and my mentor Paul Isaacs instilled in me the truth that without leaders actively discipling and mentoring young people, the next generation would not have the foundation and courage to stand strong.

Fast forward just a few years to when I was out of college and neck deep in Ohio politics. Many of my peers aspired to lead

and positively impact politics and culture. However, Forge co-founder Justin Powell and I realized that without carefully chosen mentors and networks of steadfast friends, these well-intentioned young leaders might slowly morph into self-absorbed manipulators. Young people struggled to find mentors who were both principled conservatives and strategic leaders, leaving them compromised, disillusioned, or burned out.

This is one of the main reasons we started Forge - to provide both the friendships and mentorships to solve the isolation dilemma. A central feature of the Forge Mentorship Academy is that Forge secures each student a personalized mentor who is a leader of strong character in the professional field they hope to impact. There is a generation of young conservatives who want guidance, and there are qualified and principled leaders who have wisdom to share; what's needed is an introduction. That's where Forge comes

in.

Seven years later, it is astounding to see what God has accomplished through mentorship stories like Genevieve's (page 2) and Savanna's (page 18). I hope this newsletter highlights the pivotal role Forge mentors play in the growth of tomorrow's leaders.

ADAM JOSEFCZYK

PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER
FORGE LEADERSHIP NETWORK

OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

**Center FOR
Christian
Virtue**

Public Policy. Engagement. Education.



HILLSDALE COLLEGE



BETTER THAN PLANNED

Genevieve Harding

During my Forge D.C. trip in January of 2020, my Academy class went to the Conservative Partnership Institute to hear from various speakers. One of those speakers was Rachel Bovard. I was deeply inspired by how Rachel talked about being a conservative woman in politics, and during the question and answer portion I asked her what her advice would be for a young woman planning to pursue a career in politics who also wanted to one day be a mother. Rachel smiled at me before answering my question and said, "You are a planner, aren't you?" I

laughed slightly before nodding. That was my first of many interactions with Rachel where I felt that she wasn't simply interested in giving a generalized piece of advice but wanted to know something personal about who she was speaking to.

After the trip, I told Adam that I was interested in being matched with Rachel for my mentorship experience. Fast forward to the fall of 2020 and I was living in D.C., interning in Congress, and started my mentorship experience with Rachel. From the beginning, Rachel went above and beyond

what was expected of her role as a mentor. She offered to meet with me not just once a month, but every other week. Our meetings would last an hour, sometimes longer.

Our conversations centered around my career goals, internships, and stretched into areas of my personal life. We bonded over the Catholic faith that I was converting to during our mentorship. I always felt very comfortable talking to Rachel and I quickly felt like I was talking to a friend during our mentorship meetings.

Outside of our biweekly meetings, I knew

that if anything came up I could reach out to her for help. When I found myself in tricky situations at my internships, Rachel would always respond with encouragement and direction, helping however she could. Having a professional relationship where I knew I wouldn't be judged for the beginner mistakes I made ultimately helped me to be more confident in my abilities in the workplace and outside of it.

Through all of my conversations with Rachel and hearing about her career path, I received an important piece of advice—you cannot plan your future no matter how hard you try and that is okay. You just have to take the next best step. My mentorship experience with Rachel, while it did help me to think through what I wanted to do with my future, ultimately helped me to learn important skills to maximize my present situations. As a result of my mentorship experience with Rachel and my time with Forge, I was able to explore possibilities and get connected with other people that I wouldn't have known if I hadn't learned to hold my plans and aspirations with an open hand. Now

I am working as a Scheduler and Executive Assistant at U.S. House of Representatives, in large part due to Rachel and Forge.

One of the things that I have always valued about my Forge experience is the

relationships it has given me that have grown and challenged me as a person. The mentorship experience was no different. It is an aspect of the Forge experience that is incredibly personalized and sets Forge apart.



Genevieve during Forge D.C. in 2020



Genevieve at the Ohio Statehouse with fellow 2019 Summit attendees

IN THE ARENA



“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. **The credit belongs to the man** who is actually **in the arena**...who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

~Theodore Roosevelt

The multi-billion dollar self-help industry has no shortage of committed followers. There are plenty of gurus, courses, and books that flaunt extravagant promises of career advancement and personal happiness.

The problem is, personal growth rarely happens outside of vibrant relationships with other people.

When we match our Academy students with mentors, our goal is not only to connect students with consummate professionals in their chosen field, we want to help foster mentorships that will develop our student's character, personal life, and careers. In many ways, the mentorship program is the capstone of the students' year in the Academy and serves as a launch pad for years to come.

What makes mentorships through Forge so different from what someone might read in a book or learn from a podcast? It's precisely what the self-help industry can't offer – *relationships*. The difference between self-help and mentorship is that the advice of a mentor comes from someone who has

been in the arena before you and who will fight alongside you.

We see remarkable outcomes among our students and Forge mentors have also benefited greatly from taking these young leaders under their wing.

As Forge approaches almost a decade of service, we have watched as some of our earliest students have applied their mentor's wisdom both professionally and personally and how they have flourished as a result.

Rachel Del Guidice attended the Summit in 2015 and went on to work as a reporter and podcast host for the Daily Signal before starting her current position as a Director of Communications on Capitol Hill. Rachel has now served as a Forge mentor herself, and her experience as a former Forge student gives her a unique perspective into her role.

"Being a former student helped me in my experience as a Forge mentor now because it gave me insight into the questions and concerns that students are grappling with as they finish college and begin navigating the

professional world during their time in the mentorship program," Rachel said.

One of the most recent students Rachel has mentored through Forge is 2019-2020 Academy student Sarah Weaver. After graduating from Hillsdale College with her Masters Degree in 2022, Sarah moved to Washington, D.C. in the spring to work as a reporter for The Daily Caller.

"Rachel was one of the first people I knew in the journalism world," Sarah said. "Having Rachel as a mentor after I attended the summit was hugely transformative for my career. She helped me 'crack the code' on how to get a foot in the door in the journalism and media world, and encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone as a writer. Now I'm in D.C. working a job in journalism and Rachel and I are still friends!"

"The best part about being a Forge mentor," Rachel said, "is getting to walk with students on their journey and to build deeper friendships with those who are working towards the same goals. It is also an honor



2015 Inaugural Forge Summit class at the Ohio Statehouse

to in some small way pour into the lives of others as I have been blessed by mentors in my life who have poured into me.”

Also a part of Forge from the very beginning, Dan Ziegler was a member of the first Forge Board and a speaker at the inaugural 2015 Summit and many Forge D.C. weeks. Since 2018, Dan has served as the Executive Director of the Republican Study Committee.

“I consider the work I do with Forge to be some of the most important work I will do in my career,” Dan said, “and a big part of that is the mentoring. I love investing in the young people I get paired with each year, because I know there is a strong chance they will be important leaders in our movement and in their communities for years to come. Our country depends on raising up a new generation capable of filling the void of leadership, and the Forge students I have mentored are already demonstrating they are up for the task.”

One of the students that Dan has mentored through Forge is 2019-2020 Academy member Austin Glover. Dan wasn’t just available to answer some general questions, he engaged with Austin on a personal level to understand his passion, talents, and life on a deeper level. “I’m thankful,” said Austin, “that Dan shared what it’s like to work on the Hill, but more thankful that he shared what it’s like to be a worker for Christ on the Hill.”

Dan understands firsthand the need for mentorship. “I came to Washington D.C. right out of college having almost no network. 17 years later, I can look back and know that I was helped along the way by countless individuals who gave me advice and guided me along the way.”

Paul Fitzpatrick, former Chief of Staff for Congressman Mark Meadows and Senator Kelly Loeffler is one of the many champions who has answered the call to mentor several Forge Academy members. Reflecting on past mentorships, Paul said, “I love people so I’ve truly enjoyed getting to know the guys

personally and professionally which allows

“Our country depends on raising up a new generation capable of filling the void of leadership, and the Forge students I have mentored are already demonstrating they are up for the task.”

me to more effectively mentor them. Each has his own personality, interests, goals, and needs, so I listen to hear what might

be helpful. I enjoy sharing the mistakes I’ve made -- and I learn from every one of them. They give me hope for the future of the church and the nation.”

There is nothing that replaces relationships when it comes to personal, spiritual, and career growth. We have been so encouraged year after year to see the quality of the relationships built between students and mentors and to hear the stories of personal development as a result of these mentorships. Ultimately, it is not the critic’s voice that counts, it is the reassurance from those who are with you in the arena that truly matters.



Rachel Del Guidice (2015-2016) and Sarah Weaver (2019-2020)

FORGE MENTORS

over the years

A pillar of the Forge Mentorship Academy, mentors serve our students in many areas of expertise including policy, non-profit leadership, business, and much more. Here is just a sample of the many impressive mentors who have answered the call to mentor the next generation of conservative leaders. To learn more about mentoring with Forge, visit forgeleadership.org/mentor



Tony Perkins
President, Family Research Council



Marcia Taylor
*CEO, Bennett International Group
One of the Most Awarded
Businesswomen in America*



Meredith & Jim Olson
*Cold War American Heroes
in the Clandestine Services*



Paul Teller
Executive Director, Advancing American Freedom

Russ Vought
*President, Center for Renewing America
Cabinet Member - Director of OMB in the
Trump Administration*



Alison Centofante
National Pro-Life Leader

Rachel Bovard
*Senior Director of Policy,
Conservative Partnership Institute*



Warren Davidson
U.S. Congressman OH-08

Michael Farris
CEO, Alliance Defending Freedom



Kerri Kupec
*Former Public Affairs Director
Justice Department*

Brett Giroir
*4-star Admiral
and Former Asst. Secretary of Health*



Jackie McClaskey
*Secretary, Kansas Department of Agriculture
Under Gov. Sam Brownback*



MENTORSHIPS THAT MADE AMERICA GREAT

1 | Washington and Hamilton

Political mentorship in the United States is as old as the country itself. We see this in the relationship between Alexander Hamilton and George Washington, two men integral to the military and political victories required to

found the United States.

Hamilton arrived in the American colonies in 1772 on a community funded expedition to receive higher education. Studying at Kings College in New York, Hamilton soon became involved with anti-British protests. Authoring multiple pamphlets attacking imperial

loyalist Samuel Seabury, he eventually joined a militia and assumed the role of captain in an artillery company.

When the Revolutionary War broke out, Hamilton impressed leadership and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, serving under George Washington. They became

close friends, and despite some harsh disagreements at times, persisted in their alliance in pursuit of victory and the creation of a newborn government.

The writing prowess of Hamilton was a key part of his influence, leading him to author many of the Federalist Papers, which argued for the adoption of the Constitution. Hamilton also lent his writing abilities to Washington in pivotal moments.

Hamilton was brilliant and aggressive while Washington was wise and experienced. This combination would serve as an early power-block, with Hamilton serving as the first Secretary of the Treasury and Washington the first President.

2 | John Adams and John Quincy Adams

John Adams was the first-born son of a farmer and shoemaker in Massachusetts. Displaying great academic strengths, Adams attended Harvard and became a teacher while also studying to become a lawyer. His wife, Abigail Adams, was his closest friend and confidant. They had six children together, one of whom was John Quincy Adams.

The elder Adams used his skills as a lawyer to contest what colonists saw as unfair laws and taxes from Britain, establishing his place at the table in American politics. In 1774, Adams would represent Massachusetts in the Continental Congress, and was responsible for nominating Washington to serve as commander of the colonial armies. In 1778, Adams would serve his fledgling country as a diplomat to France in an attempt to secure aid in their rebellion against the British monarchy.

Adams stayed there until the war concluded, and served as the first ambassador to Britain. Adams would return to serve as the Vice President, then succeed Washington as the second President of the United States. Through all of these events, his

How **Mentor** Entered the Dictionary

The word “mentor” dates back to the 7th century B.C. when *The Odyssey* was first written by Homer. One of the great literary works of the Western world, *The Odyssey* follows the journey of the hero Odysseus as he attempts to return home to his wife Penelope and son Telemachus after the Trojan War.

Left at home with no father, Telemachus is left to the watchful eye of his tutor, Mentor, who was meant to guide the young boy. As the years drag on without the return of Odysseus, nobles begin to pressure Penelope to remarry and restore order within her household. Resolute, she refuses to accept a suitor and Telemachus must learn to be the leader of the household. Unfortunately, Mentor proves a poor guide, and the goddess Athena decides that it is up to her to instruct the young boy. Disguising herself as Mentor, Athena visits Telemachus and offers him wisdom. Because of her counsel, Telemachus defends his mother and his title from those who wanted to usurp Odysseus. In this way, Telemachus transforms from the young boy unable to fill his father’s shoes into a man who can govern his household and defend his family’s name.

The origin of the word “mentor” sheds some light on the significance and meaning of the term. The goddess Athena was worshipped in ancient Greece for her wisdom. The patroness of the city of Athens, she was honored among the Athenians and Greeks alike for her wisdom and prowess. This makes her appearance to Telemachus under the disguise of his tutor Mentor a telling example of the qualities we now associate with mentors.

When we look for mentors for our students, we are looking not only for people who are skilled in guiding and leading a young mentee, but also someone who demonstrates wisdom. Proverbs 13:20 (ESV) says, “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.” We want our students to walk with wise mentors so that they will be equipped to face the trials and temptations they will encounter in their career. 2020 - 2021 Academy member Calvin Blaylock said of his experience in Forge, “Regardless of what political victories might be immediately in front of me it’s easier to stay principled, knowing that I have the accountability of so many dear friends and colleagues through Forge.”

<https://www.growthmentor.com/blog/origin-of-word-mentor/>



Eisenhower and Reagan from a 1966 Associated Press Photo courtesy of The Washington Examiner.

son Quincy was educated on the dynamics of politics. Adams would frequently write to his son, offering strict words on Quincy's need to be great.

"You come into life with advantages which will disgrace you if your success is mediocre. And if you do not rise to the head not only of your own profession, but of your country, it will be owing to your own laziness, slovenliness and obstinacy." – John Adams

In response to this harsh honesty, John Quincy Adams replied, "The first and deepest of all my wishes is to give satisfaction to my parents."

The relationship was extreme, with John using his fatherly advantage to brow beat Quincy whenever he felt his son hadn't reached his highest potential. This parenting and mentorship style would fail John with his other two sons, and Quincy with his own sons, but with John and Quincy, it produced another brilliant politician. Quincy shared his father's contempt for slavery and love of

country, and eventually served as America's sixth president. John Adams would come to regret his harsh treatment of his children, and rebuked Quincy for following his previous example. While complicated, this father/son duo claimed their place in history as vital players in early American politics.

3 | Eisenhower and Reagan

A more recent example of impactful mentorships in American history is the brief but powerful relationship between Ronald Reagan and former President Dwight "Ike" Eisenhower. In the early 1960s, Reagan was nearing the end of his acting career, and considering entering politics. At the time, Eisenhower was out of office and helping advance the Republican agenda from the sidelines, hoping to preserve the gains in national defense and anti-communism made during his own administration. Pursuant

to this, Ike offered a speech at the 1964 Republican National Convention in support of Barry Goldwater.

Reagan studied Ike's speech intently, using it to inform his grand entrance into the political sphere, a nationally-televised dictation titled "A Time for Choosing." Reagan's speech was brilliant and caught Eisenhower's attention.

When Reagan declared his candidacy for the 1966 California gubernatorial race, he sought out Eisenhower as a mentor. Ike wrote him multiple letters and they met four times to talk strategy, problems, and solutions. Immediately upon winning the Governorship, Eisenhower put Reagan on a short-list of potential 1968 Presidential nominees, and continued the mentorship until Ike's death in 1969.

Reagan went on to become President in 1980, and galvanize a conservative movement that is still alive to this day.



500

Students
Trained

250

Students
Mentored

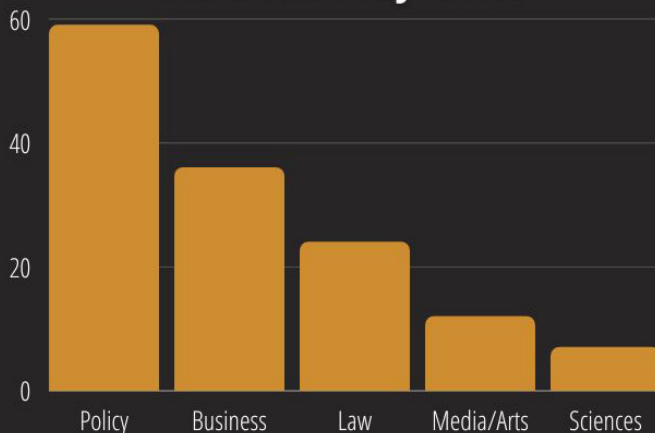
167

Campuses

41

States

Where Are They Now?



50

Grads have worked
on Capitol Hill

12

Grads have worked on
presidential campaigns

7

Grads serving in
elected office

100% INCREASE

The number of students who were
very likely to be actively engaged
in politics and culture **MORE THAN
DOUBLED** after attending Forge.



"Without the policy and hands-on training, the amazing experiences, and incredible friendships I received from Forge Leadership Network, I can confidently say I would have never run for office. If you want to be in conservative politics, the Forge experience is essential."

State Rep. Jena Powell (Ohio)

A CLOSER Look

1 | Career Clarity

During the Academy year, students interact with professionals from many vocations and career fields which enables students to come to a deeper understanding of their individual calling. As they near the end of the Academy, participants update Forge on their career path so that we can match them with the right personal mentor.

2 | New Connections

Through their mentorship, Forge participants get to know a professional in their chosen field and many are invited to attend an event with their mentor so that they can network with organizations, businesses, and individuals in their vocation. Many students stay connected with their mentor past the initial time commitment.

Proven

"Let the wise hear and im
one who understand



According to a recent study
professionals have a men
mentorship is important
people with mentors b
shortage of these

3 | Vocation

Forge students report that
understand their calling
lessons are only learned
experience and mentors
practical wisdom with stu
careers.

Look At Mentorship

Proverbs 1:5

"...and increase in learning, and the
stands obtain guidance"



...study, only about four out of ten
mentor, although 97% believe
important. Forge matches young
ers because our culture has a
these relationships.*

Personal Guidance

...that their mentor helped them
ing on a deeper level. Many
rned through the school of
ors are able to share their
students as they begin their

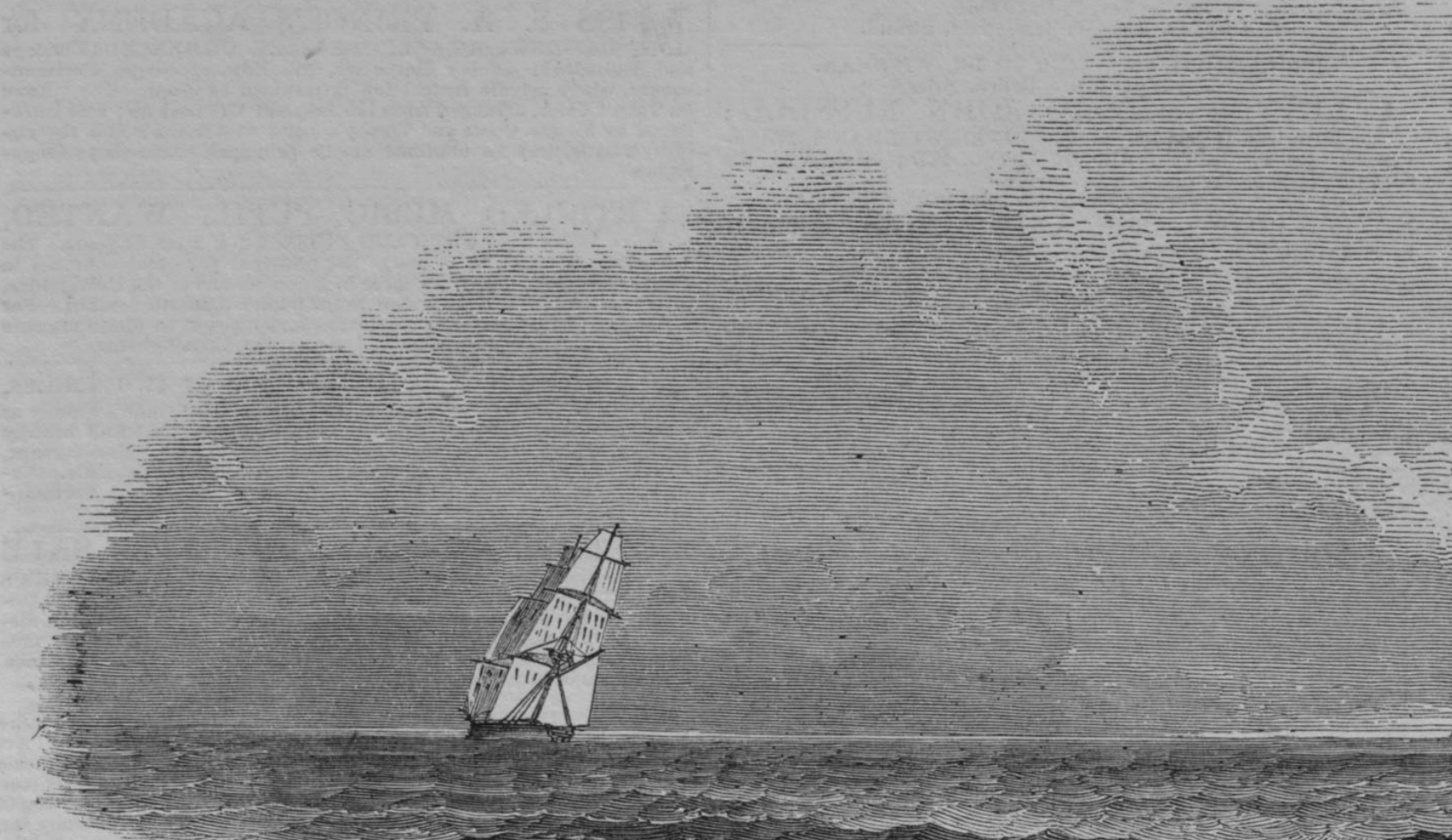
5 | Future Leaders

Forge Academy students are passionate about pursuing excellence through their vocational calling to honor God, serve their country, and help their neighbors. By matching students with a one-on-one mentor, they get personalized advice and training that helps them pursue excellence through servant leadership.

4 | Industry Experts

Forge has a network of leading experts and professionals who generously give their time to help raise up a new generation of leaders. These mentors are policy experts, business and civic leaders, attorneys, entrepreneurs, and Cabinet Members who are leading voices in their field. We are so grateful for mentors who are dedicated to these young leaders.

*Study conducted by Olivet Nazarene University in 2019



AMAZING

This article is adapted from a talk delivered by Forge President and Co-Founder Adam Josefczyk during the Forge Leadership Summit.

William Wilberforce was a member of British Parliament at the end of the 18th and the start of the 19th centuries, around the time of the American and French Revolutions.

At the turn of the 18th century, Wilberforce was a young orator. In Britain, although he would have belonged to a different party, he would have been the AOC of the British Empire when he was just 25. He and his best friend William Pitt were in Parliament and together were the two hot shots in British

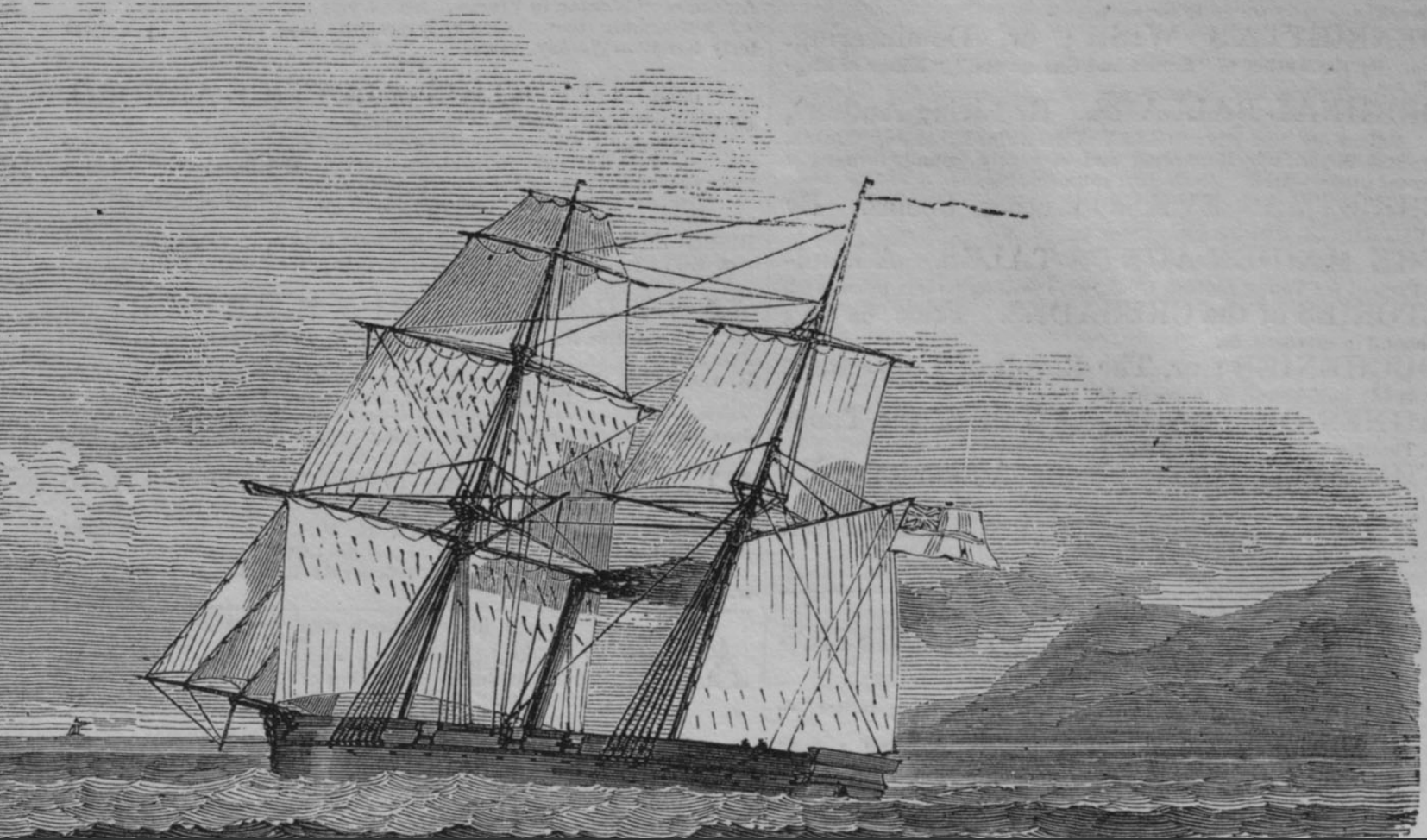
politics.

At the time, England was in the midst of the enlightenment and while the country was historically Christian in its heritage and tradition, being a passionate Christian at that time was considered embarrassing. This is the era when the term “fundamentalist” started to be used with a negative connotation. Wilberforce found this out, because when he was 10 years old, his parents sent him up country to live with his

aunt and uncle in their summer home on the water. His parents brought him home after a couple of months, because his aunt and uncle are what would be considered “evangelical Christians.” Wilberforce’s aunt and uncle kept hosting religious leaders like George Whitfield, the famous preacher during the Great Awakening, and others like John Newton.

It was embarrassing to a family of high social standing to have relatives who were

Photo of a slave ship courtesy of SlaveryImages.org



GRACE

The Mentorship of England's Emancipator

passionate about their relationship with a personal God, not simply the deist religion that was popular at the time. Wilberforce's religious foundation was a mixed foundation of lukewarm Deism in his parent's house, and vibrant faith in his aunt and uncle's house. Entering his mid-20s as a member of Parliament, he had a powerful encounter with God that led to his conversion to Christianity. At the time of his conversion, the only Christian Wilberforce knew in London was a monastic, pastoral man of the cloth named John Newton.

Newton is best known as the author of the classic hymn "Amazing Grace." He had a sordid history—in his former life he was a slave ship captain, but had a radical transformation to a quiet life serving God as a pastor and hymn writer.

Wilberforce went to him after his conversion thinking that he would follow Newton's example and leave politics for a quiet life in religious service. His assumption was that his conversion must necessarily lead to a vocational change, that he must become clergy to serve God. But Newton rebuked

and corrected Wilberforce's understanding of a Christian's role in the world. Instead of encouraging Wilberforce to retire his position and status in public life, Newton challenged him to use his charisma and convictions in Parliament.

Newton showed Wilberforce a biblical theology of vocation. As Christians, we often still struggle with this concept of faith, vocation, and service. An essential question for young conservative Christians today is: should a young person of faith engage in politics? Is it even possible to engage in

politics without sacrificing morals? It is no secret that there are real moral pressures to compromise – not just in diplomatic or political ways, but also in terms of integrity and character. Throughout history, some religious people have argued Christians should have nothing to do with secular government, but this is an insufficient answer.

Thankfully for us – and thankfully for those enslaved for centuries in the Atlantic slave trade – Newton corrected this theology of isolation. Instead, he reminded Wilberforce that God calls men and women into all aspects of society to glorify Him and the to pursue the good of their city (Jeremiah 29:7). It would be foolish to think that because there's an arena of life rife with temptation – whether it's Wall Street or Washington, D.C. – that all the people with a strong sense of character and morality should vacate that arena. Can you guess what would happen in those places if we do retreat? I can give you a hint, those places won't get better. So, not only can we be involved in civic life, but we should. It is a part of the Christian's calling to influence the public square for the good of our neighbors.

So why should we engage in politics? This question gets at the heart of our motivation. Often, people think that conservatives engage because they want to force their beliefs on everybody else. But that's not the reason.

It's not that conservatives need everybody to ascribe to the same worldview, it's that we desire for our laws to reflect what is true and good. That way men, women, and children can flourish.

It's pretty apparent that bad laws lead to suffering, even in a place with natural resources and advantages. In contrast, as Christians, we desire to engage society through our love of our neighbor.

We live in a country where we're able to affect the laws and community of our nation. Unlike a vast majority of people throughout human civilization, we can change the laws and our culture. Those macro changes are an avenue to love our neighbor. In the Old Testament, you see that God tells the

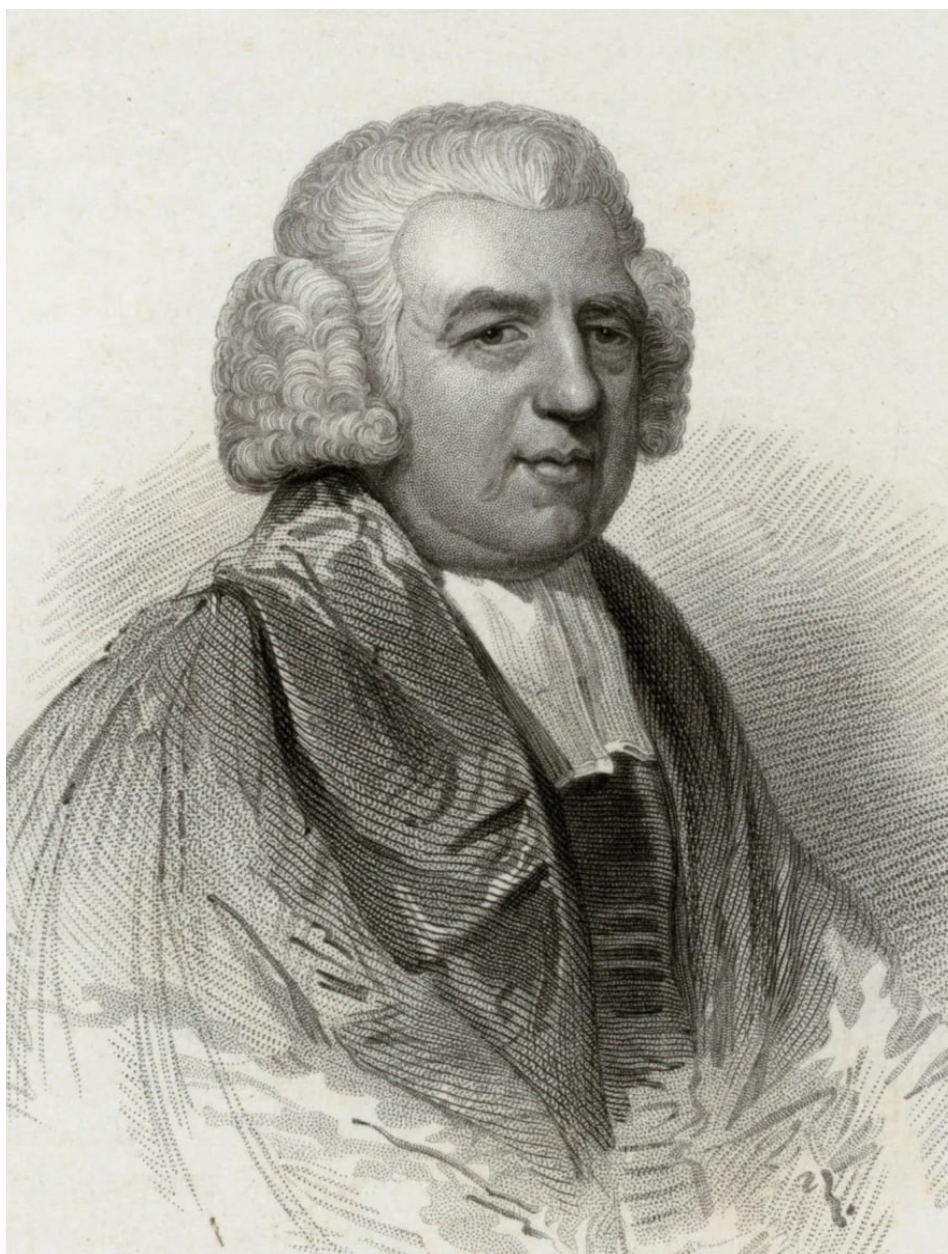
Israelite people during their exile in Babylon to seek the welfare of the city in which He placed them. He's telling them to seek the good of their neighbor and their city. To seek the good of your city is a simple extension of loving your neighbor because we know that when laws reflect what is good and true and right, people flourish. And when laws don't reflect that, people suffer.

Wilberforce not only abolished the slave trade but also lead what he called the "reformation of manners." Wilberforce's reformation of manners refers to the radical

shift away from a morally corrupt society. At the time, 30% of women over the age of 13 in London were prostitutes. Every weekend there were animal fights in the streets. The town square resembled a gulag.

To combat this, Wilberforce and a group of friends formed the Clapham circle, named after the London neighborhood in which the lived. While working in different industries, they lived life intentionally changing London and the British Empire.

How should you view yourself when entering the political and cultural fray? The



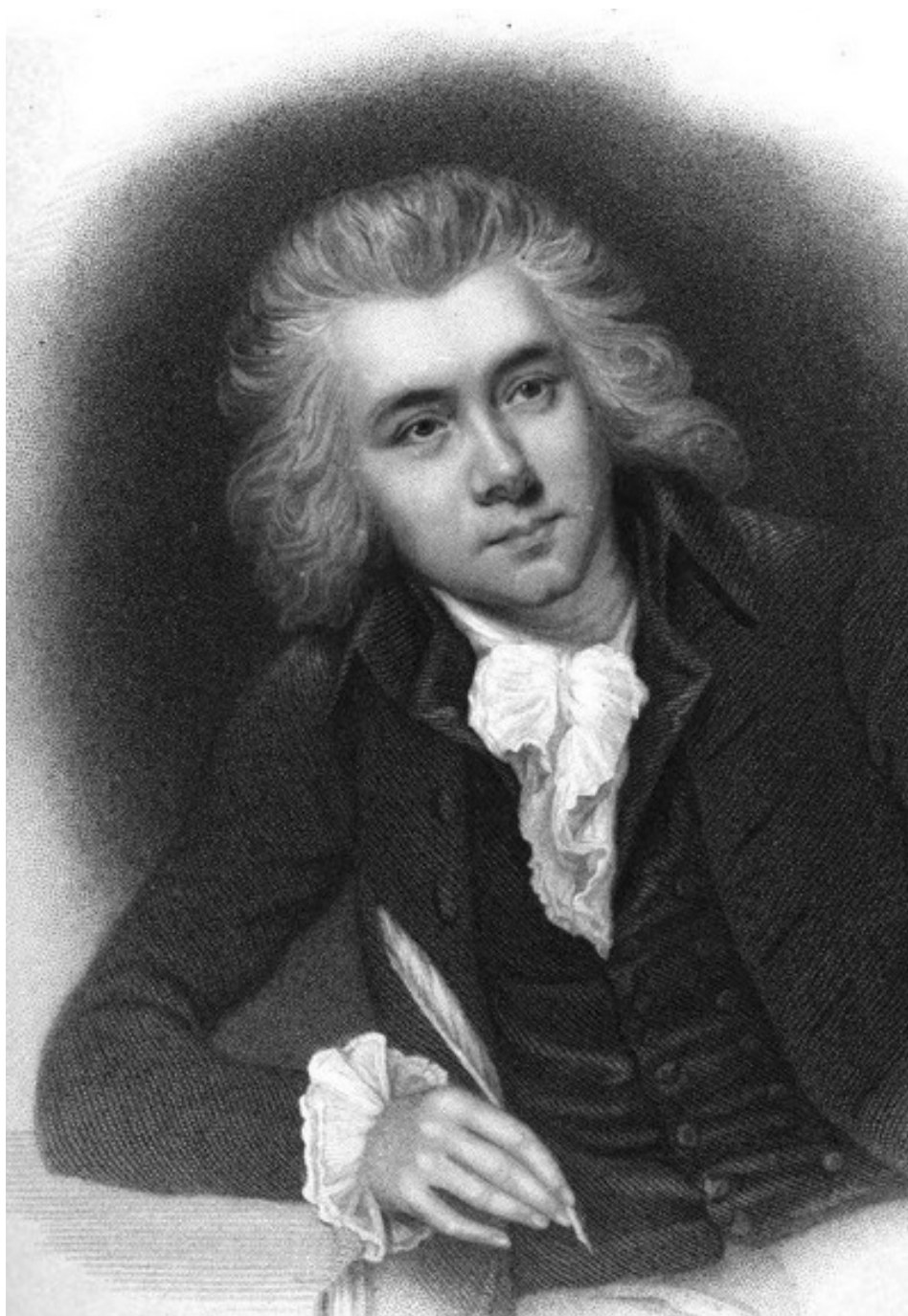
Portrait of John Newton courtesy of Britannica.com

healthiest way to view your role is that of an ambassador, because no matter what happens, no matter what culture you inherit, your job remains the same — to represent the principles of the kingdom. So, if you're a Christian who believes that you're a citizen in two kingdoms — Heaven and the United States — then your eternal calling remains the same. As an ambassador, you will face setbacks, but can maintain the perspective to get back up off the mat and go at it again. The job of an ambassador in a hostile country versus a friendly one remains the same, to represent the King and His interests no matter the cultural hostility or friendliness.

“It would be foolish to think that because there's an arena of life rife with temptation — whether it's Wall Street or Washington, D.C. — that all the people with a strong sense of character and morality should vacate that arena.”

There is a common thread amongst successful leaders of any calling. In any vocation they surround themselves with trusted friends to keep them accountable. They realize that they need mentors who have gained wisdom from experience. In Christianity, we termed this discipleship, which is really just friendship with a vision.

Newton's mentorship in Wilberforce's life is really pivotal to history. One biographer writes, “without William Wilberforce, there have been no successful campaign in the 18th and early 19th century for the Abolition of the Slave Trade in England. But without John Newton, Wilberforce would not have been engaged in such a role. For it was Newton who in 1785, persuaded the young member of Parliament not to give up his career in politics in order to enter the ministry. It was



Portrait of William Wilberforce courtesy of RegencyHistory.net

Newton whose experiences as a former slave ship captain provided Wilberforce with the authentic information he used to such devastating effect in attacking the horrors of the slave trade. Above all, it was the bonding with Newton that gave Wilberforce that powerful combination of political motivation driven by Christian conviction that inspired his abolitionist campaign, and enabled

him to persevere through many years and decades of defeats and disappointments.”¹

It is clear that the relationship between Newton and Wilberforce was of pivotal importance for history. Newton's contribution as a mentor, co-campaigner, and close friend to Wilberforce should never be underestimated.

¹ Jonathan Aitken “John Newton: From Disgrace to Amazing Grace”



A Mentor in the Movement

Forge alumna Savanna Deretich's work in the pro-life movement is enlivened through mentorship and comraderie.

Savanna Deretich

Cover photo and article photos courtesy of Savanna Deretich

Working in the pro-life movement is anything but lonely. You only need to attend the annual March for Life to see the estimated 50,000 - 100,000 attendees proclaiming the value of human life to see that many people from across the nation are committed and standing firm on their convictions. After leading the pro-life movement on my college campus, I took a full-time position after graduation with Students for Life of America. Through Forge, I have been paired with an amazing mentor who shares my passions.

I cannot fully express my excitement over having Alison Howard Centofante as my Forge mentor. I'm still just in the early stages of developing my relationship with Alison but it has been wonderful. Alison is such an inspiration to me and so many other young women in the pro-life movement.

Alison Howard Centofante is the Director of External Affairs at Live Action, a national non-profit dedicated to fighting for the rights of the unborn and encouraging mothers to choose life. In her role, Alison travels the country to speak to groups about the dignity of human life and manages government and media relations for Live Action. A nationally recognized leader in the pro-life movement, she is a favorite speaker at the Forge Leadership Summit and has also appeared on Fox News, ABC, NPR, CBN, and others.

I have followed Alison's pro-life work for years on social media and have heard her speak at various pro-life events. I'm so very grateful to Forge for this opportunity to learn directly from Alison.

I work for Students for Life of America and Alison has been partnering with us on pro-life initiatives like the Standing With You program which helps pregnant women in crisis by providing support and resources.

In my current role with Students for Life, I am working as a lobbyist within the pro-life movement. It is a privilege to travel the country and meet with bold legislators from around the country who are taking a stand against abortion in their states. In light of the

Supreme Court's ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, working with pro-life leaders and legislators on the state level has gained increasing importance.

Having a mentor in the pro-life movement who can speak to my career field is incredibly helpful, but Alison is more than just a career coach for me. We discuss seeking Christ in the pro-life movement, building relationships, valuing singleness, and how to pursue a godly relationship. As the new pro-life generation takes up the tremendous opportunity and responsibility of fighting for the unborn, it is invaluable to have the wisdom of an experienced mentor both personally and professionally.



Savanna in D.C. with fellow Academy members.



Savanna and her mentor Alison Centofante at the Supreme Court.



5 Reasons Why Gen Z Might Save Conservatism

GEN Z CONSERVATISM will likely look different than the Reaganite conservatism of the past forty years, with a greater emphasis on pragmatism and populism than strict adherence to orthodoxy. We can't yet be sure of the end product, but we can measure how Gen Z (those born between 1996 and the early-mid 2000s) is more conservative at their age than previous generational cohorts. It is also a fascinating trend considering that, on average, generations only get more conservative as they age. Here are five reasons Gen Z might save Conservatism.

1 | Anti-Political Correctness

Like most young people, Gen Z doesn't like being told what to think or say. This puts them greatly at odds with the Millennial Political Correctness machine, which they often transgress using dark and ironic humor. Pew Research found that of Gen Z members surveyed, more than half say that people are too easily offended these days. For Gen Z, few topics are off-limits when it comes to comedy or discussion, and this attitude only intensifies as outside censors attempt to cancel or silence their favorite content creators.

2 | Pro-Gun

Gen Z is a particularly pragmatic generation, and that often puts them at odds with older generations that demand policy based on principle. This is especially true for guns, as Gen Z tends to favor universal background checks, but is generally very pro-gun ownership. Though their policy beliefs may yet change over time, Gen Z is in a good starting position of leaning toward lawful possession of firearms.

3 | Pro-Life

In light of the recent Supreme Court decision, Gen Z is uniquely positioned to play a role in the restructuring of policy and resources regarding pregnancy and birth. The pro-life organization Students For Life of America has taken up the banner with the motto "We Are The Pro-Life Generation." Recent studies show that they are correct, showing that Gen Z as a whole is slightly more pro-life than previous generations, and are more likely to deem abortion as "morally wrong."

4 | Pro-Church

A 2016 study showed that among Gen Z adults in the United States, the church attendance rate was 41%. This compares well to other generations at that age with millennials exhibiting a rate of 18%, Gen X a rate of 21%, and Baby Boomers a rate of 26%. While the rate of atheism has almost doubled in Gen Z when compared to their parents, youthful church attendance is sky high. These rates will be important to watch as the rest of Gen Z reaches independence and family church attendance is less of a factor.

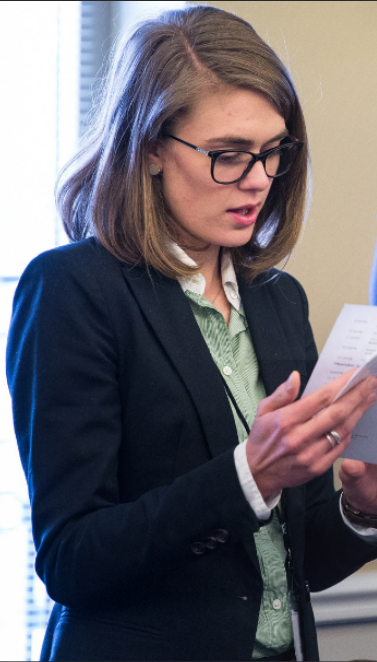
5 | Desire for Entrepreneurship

The economic damage dealt to the millennial generation by the Great Recession will likely hinder them for the rest of their financial lives, according to a study by the St. Louis Federal Reserve. This will create a massive entrepreneurship gap in the United States, as large student debts and under-developed salaries will prevent millennials from pursuing entrepreneurship. Thankfully, Gen Z is showing strong signs of producing new entrepreneurs. According to one Gallup study, almost 8 in 10 students in grades 5-12 claim they want to be their own boss. Additionally, 64% of college students and 72% of high school students want to start a business. The internet has unlocked commerce for many young people, whether it be online stores, tech startups, or content creation. It is not uncommon to hear stories of regular kids making thousands per month from a side hustle they started in high school. This attitude and can-do spirit will carry Gen Z to filling the small business gap left by other generation demographics.

GEN Z represents some of the most promise for the conservative movement within recent generations. With proper mentorship, training, and support, Gen Z has the potential to steer America towards a freer, brighter future.



Foster the Next Generation of Conservative Leaders



Transform Young Lives

Forge Leadership Network mentors, trains, and connects young conservatives ages 18-25, equipping them to lead in politics, culture, and business. We are an emerging organization that is tackling the need for a long-term, formal way to raise up, steward, and deploy talented, principled servant leaders in the states. Here is how we do it:

Identify principled, talented conservatives nationwide

Train leaders at five-day Forge Leadership Summits in state capitols every summer

Mentor top students who stand out as the best and brightest

Launch young people's careers through influential internships and jobs

Build The Movement

The conservative movement will never reap what it does not sow. Just as Major League Baseball cultivates talent through its minor leagues, you can help build the state-based farm system for the conservative movement. We partner with passionate individuals and organizations like these:

"I'm proud to support the good work that Forge Leadership Network is doing to identify, train, and equip our state's best young conservatives. Together, we can empower the next generation of Ohio's conservative leadership to begin restoring our state and nation."

Congressman Jim Jordan, (OH-4)





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