



THE BARGER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Offering life-enriching experiences and practical tools that bring leadership concepts to life

The Barger Leadership Institute (BLI) is the home for immersive and interdisciplinary undergraduate leadership experiences at the University of Michigan. The BLI takes a holistic approach to help students explore, nurture, and realize their leadership potential.

Through the power of empathy, understanding, and mindfulness, students explore a leadership approach based on dedicated practice, deep human connection, and inspiration. With a balance of high-touch mentorship and real-world autonomy, BLI offers a certificate, classes, fellowships, and more—all designed to enhance and elevate the full Michigan educational experience.

BLI is far more than a resume builder. It's the realization of leadership potential in all aspects: social, situational, relational, and cultural. With donor support, the institute offers emerging leaders more than just a skill set; they help instill a learning mindset—one that will serve Michigan students throughout their education, career, and life. The BLI uses the power of human connection and financial support from alumni, donors, and friends, to unearth and uplift tomorrow's leaders.

"Leaders and best" is a popular phrase at U-M, but in the Social Transformation Fellowship (STF), you feel that more than ever. I am incredibly grateful that I could enter an incredibly supportive, endlessly passionate community of scholars and, most importantly, change-makers. I have no doubt that I will continue seeing names from STF creating spectacular businesses, nonprofits, and organizations."

—ELIZABETH TOLRUD, BLI Social Transformation Project / Elementary Adventures, LSA Class of '25

LEARNING TO LEAD

Student members begin their leadership path in BLI through learning opportunities—developing their leadership toolkit through intentional practices, cultivating skills in community engagement to inspire positive social impact, and building peer-to-peer connections with immersive off-campus experiences.

As students take the lead to elevate their leadership capacities, the BLI offers a journey full of possibilities through various fellowships. They have the opportunity to receive one-on-one mentorship and coaching as they develop their professional identity, broaden their leadership perspectives through experiences abroad, or earn a Leadership Certificate that articulates and formalizes their leadership experiences on campus.

BLI STRATEGIC FUND

Expendable, undesignated gifts are fundamental to BLI's leadership learning and prepare the leaders of tomorrow to lead with humility and purpose. Contributions of any amount to the Strategic Fund make it possible for BLI to further its mission to offer immersive leadership experiences at the University of Michigan. Gifts of \$10,000 - \$50,000 are especially important as they will allow the BLI to expand the Leadership Certificate Program, serve more teams in the Social Transformation Fellowship, and amplify the ALA leadership course offerings to impact more U-M students each year.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.



“As a Peer Facilitator team, we talk through challenges, strategies, and ideas to improve and refine what it means to create leaders on a college campus. While our teamwork is very detail-oriented, it is especially valuable in that it teaches us how to think. Changing how I think about problems has been an essential skill to build as a Peer Facilitator... I have come to think about intersectionality and root causes to understand how people and organizations have been impacted. This, in turn, has led me to discover layers to the world I live in that I had not considered.”

***–Becky Woolf, BLI Peer Facilitator,
LSA Class of '24***



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