



LGBTQ Victory Institute works in America and around the world to increase the number of LGBTQ people in public leadership and to provide programming, service and other support to help ensure their success.

Representation is power.

When LGBTQ elected officials are in the room, it humanizes our lives, influences lawmaker colleagues and leads to more inclusive policies and legislation. That is why Victory Institute works across the nation and around the world to train LGBTQ people to run for office and provide support to LGBTQ elected officials already serving.

“

It was a four-day whirlwind. Victory Institute gave me the skills that I needed to be prepared to address the issues head on.

”

Charlotte City Councilwoman LaWana Mayfield on attending a Candidate & Campaign Training



The Impact of Victory Institute

2018 was a breakthrough year for our programs, trainees, fellows and elected officials:

- Fifty-five percent of our Candidate & Campaign Training alumni won their 2018 elections compared to 39 percent of LGBTQ candidates not trained by Victory Institute.
- Seven David Bohnett Leaders Fellows attended our program at Harvard Kennedy School and former David Bohnett Fellow Kyrsten Sinema was elected to the U.S. Senate.
- Ten of our international trainees were elected or appointed to public office – including two of the three newly elected trans women in Brazil.
- Our International LGBTQ Leaders Conference was the largest in its history, with more than 550 LGBTQ elected officials and leaders from 26 countries.
- We hosted a half-day closed door session with more than 60 LGBTQ elected officials to strategize next steps in moving forward equality.



Building a Pipeline of LGBTQ Leaders

Victory Institute programs aim to build and maintain a diverse pipeline of LGBTQ leaders interested in public service, and to provide training and professional development to existing LGBTQ elected officials.

Candidate & Campaign Trainings

Our intensive four-day Candidate & Campaign Trainings provide comprehensive, non-partisan best practices to present and future LGBTQ candidates, campaign staff and community leaders. Trainees learn necessary skills and strategies by engaging in tough, realistic campaign simulations, and work with peers to develop a plan to run for office and win.

Thousands of openly LGBTQ candidates, campaign workers and other leaders learned how to build winning campaigns through this training, which takes place several times each year. Notable alumni include U.S. Representative Jared Polis, Long Beach (CA) Mayor Robert Garcia, former Houston Mayor and Victory Institute President & CEO Annise Parker, and Virginia Delegate Danica Roem. To learn more and apply for a training please go here: <https://victoryinstitute.org/trainings/>

Leadership Summits

Our one-day Leadership Summits held in low or medium-equality states help participants develop the skills necessary to begin or advance a career in public service. Led by Victory Institute staff, local elected and appointed officials, and local LGBTQ advocacy organizations, participants are connected with tools and resources to support their career advancement and make connections with other LGBTQ leaders. Each training is tailored to the political environment and needs of constituents in the host city.

Victory Congressional Internship and David Bohnett Victory Congressional Fellowship

The Victory Congressional Internship and David Bohnett Victory Congressional Fellowship provide the next generation of out public leaders with a summer-long internship or year-long fellowship with the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus. Through these experiences, the interns and fellow receive professional mentorship and learn firsthand about the federal legislative process.

Victory Empowerment Fellowship

The year-long Victory Empowerment Fellowship for LGBTQ leaders of color and/or transgender leaders works to develop campaign skills and policymaking know-how to prepare them for public service careers. Notable alumni include Minneapolis City Councilmembers Andrea Jenkins and Phillippe Cunningham, and Palm Springs City Councilmember Lisa Middleton.

“ I am so proud to have been a Victory Empowerment Fellow. The campaign training was invaluable and allowed me to put together a campaign plan and team in just three weeks. I know what is needed to win an election thanks to the tremendous support from Victory Institute. ”

Andrea Jenkins | Minneapolis City Councilmember

David Bohnett LGBTQ Leaders Fellowship

The David Bohnett LGBTQ Leaders Fellowship sends LGBTQ appointed and elected officials to a two-week program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government's Senior Executives in State and Local Government program - a professional development opportunity to advance their public service careers. More than 120 LGBTQ public officials have completed the fellowship, including notable alumni such as U.S. Senator Kyrsten Sinema, California State Senator Ricardo Lara and Ohio State Senator Nickie Antonio.

International Program

Our International Program aims to increase the participation of LGBTQ people in the democratic systems of their country to advance equality. We work with in-country partners to train LGBTQ leaders, collaborate with political parties and state institutions for greater inclusion of LGBTQ people, change people's hearts and minds through public awareness and visibility actions, and conduct research on LGBTQ political participation. Victory Institute has worked in The Balkans, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, Peru and South Africa.

International LGBTQ Leaders Conference

More than 550 LGBTQ elected officials, leaders and advocates from across the world come together for the annual International LGBTQ Leaders Conference. The conference includes three days of networking and skills building as we strategize the year ahead for our movement. 2018 conference speakers included: Colorado Governor Jared Polis, U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Elizabeth Warren, U.S. Representative Sharice Davids, Venezuelan Congresswoman Tamara Adrián, and New York City Speaker Corey Johnson.