Vision Statement

The Women & Politics Institute provides practical and academic training to women that encourages them to become involved in the political process and facilitates research by faculty and students that enhances our understanding of the challenges and opportunities women face in the political arena.

Women bringing women into the power center of politics

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WeLead Alumni return to speak to incoming class of 2019-2020. Pictured: Katie Smith (Government Affairs, AFSCME), Anje Hedgepeth (Senior Director of Federal and State Government Affairs, Child Care Aware of America), WPI Executive Director Betsy Fischer Martin, and Caren Street (Chief of Staff to Rep. Karen Bass).
Empowering Women to Empower Women

The Women & Politics Institute at American University is dedicated to closing the gender gap in the political arena. Now in its 16th year, our nonpartisan WeLead training program successfully positions young professional women to run for office or lead a political campaign.

**Top Political Practitioners**
Learn from and engage with elected officials and leading experts in campaign management, communications, fundraising, grassroots mobilization, polling, advertising and digital media.

**Professional Career Development**
Sharpen leadership skills through interactive sessions on personal branding, resume building, effective mentorships and public speaking.

**Record of Success**
Engage with our network of 600 WeLead graduates through access, events and mentoring. Our alums occupy the halls of Congress, campaign war rooms, K Street offices, state legislatures, city councils and corporate boardrooms across the country.

**Designed for Working Professionals**
Our competitive application process limits our class size to a select group of 30-40 accomplished postgraduate women. Mindful of professional obligations, our six training sessions are held on weekend days at American University in Northwest Washington, D.C.

**Program Dates**
2020: Sept 19 & 20, Nov 14
2021: Jan 30, Mar 6, Apr 10

**Join Our 2020-2021 Class**
As part of our commitment to public service and gender equality in politics, American University’s School of Public Affairs is proud to provide this valuable program to admitted participants at no cost.

Apply @ www.auwelead.org

Top: WeLead Class of 2020. Bottom from left to right: Kate Black, co-author of ‘Represent: The Woman’s Guide to Running for Office & Changing the World’, WeLead Alumna Rep. Lauren Underwood (D-IL) addresses 2019 graduates; Campaign Managers panel with Allison Teixeira Sulier (WeLead Alumna and Chief of Staff to Rep. Sharice Davids), Niccara Campbell (Political Director, Congressional Black Caucus PAC), Aly Higgins Wheeler (WeLead Alumna and Founder, Wheelerhouse, LLC) and Kristin Davison (VP and General Consultant, Axiom Strategies).