



## Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows Program

The Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows Program is a practical, bipartisan leadership development experience for senior-level staff of the United States Congress. The program, sponsored by the Stennis Center for Public Service, focuses on future challenges of Congress as an institution and the leadership role played by senior congressional staff in meeting those challenges.

In each Congress, 24 to 28 Stennis Fellows are selected by an independent panel. Each group is balanced with nearly equal numbers from both political parties and both chambers. The program mission is to:

- Enhance the capacity and commitment of exceptional senior-level staff members to “Look Ahead” to what will be needed to better serve Congress and its Members in a world of rapid change;
- Foster dialogue and the exchange of ideas among senior-level staff members in a neutral venue, and create a growing network of bipartisan, bicameral working relationships;
- Produce a useful result – an ongoing legacy of learning – for those who care about the long-term effectiveness of Congress as a governing institution; and
- Recognize and honor senior level staff of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in public service.

Stennis Fellows meet periodically over a 12 to 15-month period of fellowship. Times and locations are selected to be convenient to the Fellows.

### Learning Agenda

One of the unique features of the Stennis Fellows Program is that Fellows set and pursue their own learning agenda within a core theme. The program invites nationally and internationally renowned experts to meet with the Stennis Fellows and stimulate their thinking during the fellowship. While learning from these outside authorities is a unique opportunity, even more important is the dialogue, learning and relationship building that takes place among the Stennis Fellows. At the conclusion of the fellowship period, Fellows develop conclusions from their learning experience and, with the assistance of Stennis Center staff, prepare a report for the Congressional leadership and others interested in the future of the United State Congress as an institution of American democracy.

Stennis Fellows in each Congress build on the work of prior groups of Fellows. Learning agenda topics in past Congresses have included:

- implications of a global economy for congressional operations;
- governance and the information age;

- Congress and the media;
- demographic change in the coming decade;
- changing national security environment;
- institutional structure and partisanship in Congress
- citizen engagement, and;
- trust and civility in Congress and society.

The Stennis Fellows Program is not an advocacy effort. Application of the ideas developed through the fellowship to the legislative environment is a matter of individual choice.

## 109th Congress Fellows Program

Building on the work of Fellows in previous congresses, the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress Stennis Fellows will focus on the theme: *Congress and the People: Finding Common Ground in the Information Age*.

In American democracy, the views and values of citizens are expressed through elected representatives who enact public policy. The legitimacy of our system depends ultimately on the strength of those bonds between Congress and the people, and on the ability to find common ground. Yet, this connection between Congress and the people is being tested as the channels and speed of communication multiply, diversity of viewpoints increase, and citizens demand a greater voice in decisions that affect them. This changing environment raises important questions about improving the dialogue between Congress and the people in the search for common ground. For example:

- Does the growing role of the media and information technologies strengthen or weaken

- the connections between Congress and the people?
- How can the voice of ordinary citizens best be heard? Do interest groups represent that voice or mask whatever consensus may actually exist?
- To what degree does the polarization and partisanship in our politics reflect deep divisions in society, or are those divisions more a product of those politics?
- Are the technological and social changes of the information age moving us toward more direct forms of democracy? Can these changes be harnessed instead to increase the capacity of Congress to lead the search for common ground?

Stennis Fellows of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress will set and pursue their learning agenda around this theme. Fellows will be challenged to look ahead 10 years to explore ways of improving the connection between Congress and the people and of finding common ground in the information age.

## Eligibility

Stennis Fellows must be nominated by a Member of Congress and are senior-level congressional staff such as committee staff directors, chiefs of staff/administrative assistants, legislative directors, counsels, and senior professional staff. Nominees should demonstrate:

- A track record of leadership in key staff positions (personal or committee) characterized by senior management responsibility and involvement in significant aspects of the legislative process;
- A reputation for statesmanship – caring for the evolution of Congress and the political system as a whole;

## Calendar Highlights

March 11, 2005 .....	Nominations/nominee profiles due
April 2005 .....	Selection Committee finalizes selections
May 2005 .....	Invitations issued to 109th Congress Stennis Fellows
June 2005 .....	Welcoming Reception
July 2005 .....	Inaugural Meeting – Set Learning Agenda
July to October 2005 .....	Working groups to further develop roundtable topics and outside experts
October 2005 .....	Overnight retreat to finalize Learning Agenda; workshop on dialogue process to be used throughout fellowship
November 2005 to April 2006 .....	Roundtable sessions (about three) with leading experts on major questions of Learning Agenda (several half-day sessions or combined sessions requiring an overnight stay)
May 2006 .....	Overnight retreat to synthesize conclusions from the Fellowship
July 2006 .....	Awards and Celebration dinner

- Significant career commitment to public service, with special emphasis on Congress;
- A desire to make a significant contribution to further the mission of the program; and
- A commitment to learn and fully participate in the responsibilities of the fellowship.

Nominations of high-potential staffers with limited Hill experience will also be considered. Renominations of senior level staff not selected in prior Congresses are encouraged. The ability to participate fully in the program is a prerequisite to being appointed and retaining the designation of Stennis Fellow.

The Stennis Center seeks diversity in the Fellows Program and does not discriminate among individual nominees on the basis of race, religion, sex, national or ethnic origin, disability, or veteran status.

## Fellows Program Staff

Rex G. Buffington, II  
*Executive Director*

Mary Dewald  
*Program Coordinator*

Janet McKell  
*Administrative Secretary*

Steven Rosell  
*Learning Process Leader*  
*Stennis Congressional Staff Fellow Program*

Tom Sliter  
*Senior Fellow and Program Coordinator*

## Stennis Fellows Profile

More than 160 Stennis Fellows have completed their fellowship and are now known as Senior Fellows. Many continue to serve in the Congress where their combined service totals well over 2000 years. More than half of the Senior Fellows had ten years of experience or more at the time of their selection as a Stennis Fellow. Fifteen percent had twenty years of experience or more while thirteen percent were selected as Stennis Fellows with five years of experience or less.

## Stennis Center for Public Service

The John C. Stennis Center for Public Service was created by Congress in 1988 to promote and strengthen public service leadership in America. The Stennis Center is headquartered in Starkville, Mississippi, with an office in Washington, DC. Programs of the Stennis Center are funded through an endowment plus private contributions.

The Stennis Center's mandate is to provide development and training for leaders in public service, including congressional staff, and to attract young people to careers in public service leadership. The Stennis Center accomplishes its mission through conferences, seminars, special projects, and leadership development programs.

# Stennis Congressional Staff Fellows

## 103rd through 108th Congress

### 103rd Congress

Leslie L. Atkinson	David Bartel	William Black	Steven T. Bosacker
Mark H. Brown	Donald G. Carlson	James H. Dykstra	James M. Eagen, III
Christine C. Ferguson	James M. Guthrie	W. Roger Gwinn	Nicholas Hayes
Suzanne C. Hildick	Robert H. Hurt	J. Keith Kennedy	David Krawitz
James M. Kulikowski	TerriAnn Lowenthal	Robert J. Ludwiczak	Susan Aheron Magill
Kari J. Moe	Kathy A. Ormiston	Arnold L. Punaro	Grace A. Reef
Marda J. Robillard	Phillip W. Rotondi	Robert M. Rozen	Robert P. Savitt
Carlottia A. W. Scott	Robert V. Seltzer	Kelly M. Sharbel, Jr.	Dennis G. Smith
Leonard Weiss	Ellen Jones Whitt		

### 104th Congress

Judith A. Blanchard	Moses Boyd	T. Scott Bunton	Joseph R. Crapa
Fariborz S. Fatemi	Mark Alan Forman	Jane A. Gorsuch	Thomas E. Harvey
Susan K. Hattan	Dorothy R. Jackson	Albert Steven Jacquez	William Mansel Long
Thomas O. Melius	Alan Bruce Mertz	Eleanor Nash-Brown	David Alan Nathan
Holly E. Propst	Matthew A. Reynolds	Arthur D. Rhodes	Douglas D. Ritter, Jr.
J. Thomas Sliter	Charles C. Stephenson, Jr.	Steven Richards Valentine	Mark E. Van de Water
Patrick Von Bargen	Donald R. Wolfensberger		

### 105th Congress

Chuck Atkins	Daniel E. Bob	Ann Brozek-Jablon	Manus M. Cooney
Thomas A. Daffron	Robert L. Dibblee	Stephenie Foster	Scott B. Gudes
Cheryl Lynn Johnson	Daniel J. Keniry	Tamera S. Luzzatto	David S. Lyles
Christopher James Mansour	Nora Baumeister Matus	John W. McCamman	Katherine B. McGuire
Susy Stout Smith	John T. Stirrup, Jr.	Liz Tankersley	Ted Van Der Meid
Heea Vazirani-Fales	Connie Ann Veillette	Andrew Vermilye	Trudy A. Vincent
Gregory W. Waddell			

### 106th Congress

Carolyn Apostolou	Paul S. Bock	Richard R. Boykin	Mark Brownell
James Derderian	Rochelle Suzanne Dornatt	Suzanne F. Farmer	Kevin I. Fromer
Linda Gustitus	Michael S. Hershey	Kristine A. Iverson	Nils W. Johnson
Kevin D. Kayes	John Wilcox Lampmann	Diane Liesman	D. Gray Maxwell
Patrick O. McGarey	David Pomerantz	John D. Schelble	Wendy K.D. Selig
Robert M. Simon	Mark Strand	Roger R. Szemraj	Stephen Dorsey Vermillion III
Marie G. Wheat	Andrew Wheeler	Mildeen G. Worrell	Richard A. (Rowdy) Yeates

### 107th Congress

Corine Larson Bradshaw	Joyce Brayboy	Cassandra Q. Butts	Kenneth M. Connolly
James K. Conzelman	Rebecca M. Davies	Robert F. Dobek	Michael W. Evans
Caroline R. Fredrickson	Raissa H. Geary	Andrew W. Givens	Angus M. (Don) Green, Jr.
Thomas P. Hawkins	Richard J. Healy	Charles J. Houy	Clinton Columbus Jones III
Kay Atkinson King	Peter K. Levine	Christopher J. Miller	Kimberly C. Parker
Lori Groves Rowley	Nicole Venable Smith	Kate Sparks	Damon P. Tobias
Andrew B. Willison			

### 108th Congress

Richard A. Arenberg	John M. Ariale	Winfield Boerckel, Jr.	David Cavicke
Jo-Ellen Darcy	Lula Johnson Davis	Don DeArmon	Bruce M. Evans
Beverly Ann Fields	Gene T. Fisher	Monique P. Frazier	Jennice Fuentes
Christina Langelier Hamilton	Elisabeth Wright Hawkings	Clayton Heil	Robert Gregory Hinote
Robert Holste	Stacey Leavandosky	Evan Liddiard	Stephanie J. Monroe
Carol Murphy	Sue A. Nelson	Janet Perry Poppleton	Judy Schneider
Russell Sullivan	Kristine Svinicki	Alison Taylor	Paul Unger
Mark S. Wellman			