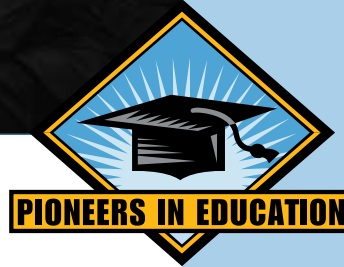




# PIONEER STUDENT LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Building Leaders for the  
21st Century Workforce

[pioneersineducation.org](http://pioneersineducation.org)



*"In life, there are passengers and there are drivers. At the Pioneer Student Leadership Academy, the staff spent every waking hour making sure the interns would become drivers, in control of their own destiny and ready to lead others."*

*—Brittany Willis  
PSLA 2005 Intern*



PSLA is a residential leadership training and long-term mentoring program for underserved and underrepresented college students who are preparing to lead the 21st Century Workforce.

Sponsored by the Pioneers in Education Alliance (PiE), the Academy is hosted annually by the Alliance in partnership with a supporting college or university.

Students can come from any college or university and should be sophomores, juniors or seniors.

Alliance partners or corporate sponsors can nominate students.

**Academy workshops** are taught by professional trainers and subject matter experts from both the public and private sectors. To maximize interns' learning opportunities, all workshops are one-third formal instruction and two-thirds interactive, hands-on activities.

### The Academy:

**Offers** a curriculum designed to build the interns' knowledge and skill in three areas critical to success in every workplace: Leadership, Communication and Personal Development.

**Allows** each Pioneer intern to develop and apply their written and oral communication skills.

**Introduces** the interns to the PSLA Mentoring Network, through which they receive year-long mentoring by business leaders and establish potential opportunities for internships and employment.



### Track 1: Personal Development

- Individual Learning Patterns
- Electronic Portfolio
- Test-Taking Skills
- Business Etiquette
- School-to-Work Transition

### Track 2: Leadership

- Leadership Skills
- Team Building
- Customer Service
- Ethical Leadership

### Track 3: Communications

- The Written and Spoken You
- Speaking With Confidence
- Interviewing Skills
- Résumé Writing

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Along with workshops, interns participate in Academy projects, which produce impressive additions for their portfolios.



*The Pioneer Pages* newsletter is the umbrella for the **Print Media Production** project, based on the premise that good writing is a skill that crosses all career paths and professions. Under the direction of a writer/editor/designer, interns review the ABCs of writing, from grammar to interviewing to headline writing. At the start of the Academy, each intern is given an assignment to cover an event or conduct an interview. Their articles are then published under their bylines in the newsletter.

In **Electronic Media Production**, interns document Academy activities and conduct on-screen interviews with PSLA sponsors, instructors, guest speakers, corporate executives and fellow interns. Each intern has the opportunity to try out various roles, including cameraman, editor, producer, writer and interviewer. The webcasts they produce are posted on the Pioneers website and are available for use by Academy sponsors.

The **Main Event** is designed to help interns synthesize and showcase what they learn throughout the Academy. Each team of interns is responsible for creating a new fictional organization, including the name; organizational covenant, structure, and roles and responsibilities; logo; site location; and prototype or model. Near the end of the Academy, the teams of interns present their business plans and projects to a panel of corporate executives and receive immediate feedback.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

The Pioneer interns participate in **Leadership Roundtable**, a panel discussion with corporate and government leaders who share their views on workforce preparation and other topics. Hosted by an Alliance partner, this event serves as the interns' formal introduction to the 21st century workforce.

The interns don business attire for the **Etiquette Banquet**, during which they learn the do's and don'ts of business dining and networking etiquette from a corporate trainer.

## THE PSLA MENTORING NETWORK

The annual Academy is the interns' portal of entry into the Pioneer Mentoring Network and their introduction to leaders from corporate America, education and government. Each intern is assigned a mentor before graduating from the Academy. Then through the network, these leaders and executives:

**Communicate** directly with interns to share personal and professional characteristics needed by their organizations.

**Share** the wide range of opportunities that exist within their organizations.

**Introduce** interns to their personal network of contacts.

**Forge** relationships with the interns that will continue over the coming years.



*"PSLA is a life-changing experience for me.  
I found my wonderful mentor."*

*—Justine Verser  
PSLA 2007*

## ACADEMY SUPPORTERS

### INCLUDE

Army National Museum

Bank of America

Bowne & Company

Burhany Medford LLC

Call Me Mister\*

Creative Outreach Consulting

Comanche Nation College

DuPont\*

DWoolwine & Co

Enlightened Corporation\*

George Washington

University

GlobalTouch Productions

KevinPaige Art

MANRRS\*

The McKeithen Group

NC A&T State University

NY State Assemblyman

William Boyland

Page One Foundation\*

Performance Enhancement

Group

Pioneer Hi-bred International\*

PTG Consulting Group\*

Raytheon

Ron McNair Foundation

Savannah Power

Straight Arrow

Syngenta

Texas Driving Experience

TB Hampton Consulting

USDA

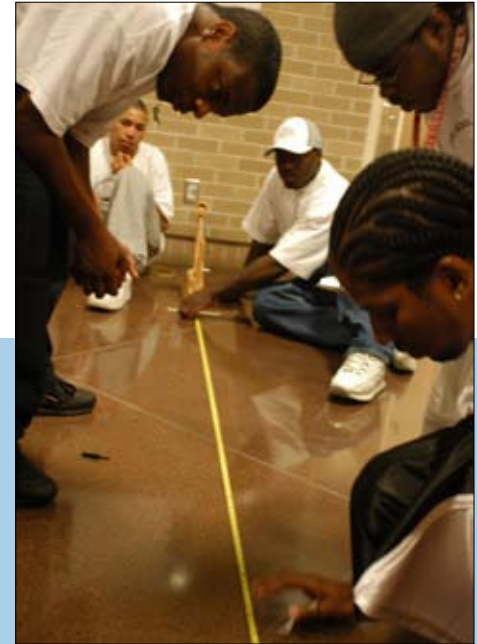
U.S. Forestry Service\*

ViewSet Corporation\*

*\*Alliance Partner/Affiliate*

*"PSLA is an excellent source of new talent  
for our company."*

*—Andre Rogers  
Enlightened Corporation*



For a more personal look at the Pioneer Student Leadership Academy, please visit  
[www.pioneersineducation.org](http://www.pioneersineducation.org).