



Lewis Leadership Program

@ John R. Lewis High School

LEADERSHIP

JUSTICE

SERVICE

ADVOCACY

Students Shaping Our Community



Lewis Leadership Program students, families, and staff stand with leaders from the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), including Member Gwynne A. Wilcox (third from right, back row), at the certificate ceremony for the NLRB Student Ambassador Program

MESSAGE FROM OUR LEWIS LEADERSHIP TEAM

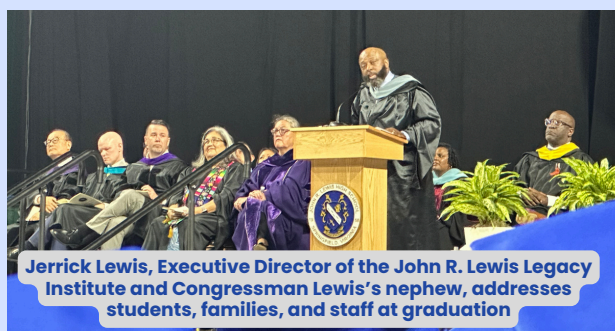
This summer, we look back on the John Lewis Leadership Program’s second year and notice the many ways our students are shaping our community. Some highlights:

- Our student leaders worked with the **Workforce Innovation Skills Hub** and **Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture** to build a farm so our neighbors can grow the food they need ([video](#)).
- They learned about workplace justice from **National Labor Relations Board** leaders, and shared their learning to empower others ([video](#)).
- They honored and preserved the diverse history of Springfield in partnership with **George Mason University** and **Leadership Fairfax** ([video](#)).
- They impacted more than 300 teachers and leaders at 120 schools across and beyond FCPS as consultants and presenters advocating for innovation in education, drawing inspiration from experiences at **Virginia Tech Thinkabit Lab**, **Microsoft Garage**, and the mentorship of leaders from **IntegrityM** ([video](#)).
- They took **43 field trips**, learned about leadership from **34 guest speakers** across fields, and shared their ideas and advocacy with decision-makers who impact our community and nation, including elected officials and CEOs.

This summer, we also look ahead to the John Lewis Leadership Program’s third year: a year of expanding participation, formalizing program offerings, integrating curriculum into core and elective courses, and continuing to innovate with the voices of students, staff, and families at the center. There is still much work to be done. We would love to partner with you in Year 3 to ensure all students at Lewis High School have meaningful opportunities to connect to the legacy of John R. Lewis.

In community,

Deborah March, Program Manager
Erik Manuel Giblin, Assistant Principal
Mirella Saldaña Torres, Work-Based Learning Teacher



Jerrick Lewis, Executive Director of the John R. Lewis Legacy Institute and Congressman Lewis’s nephew, addresses students, families, and staff at graduation



Members of the Lewis Leadership Program Community Working Group at the April Exhibition of Learning

PARTNERSHIPS SPARK ENGAGEMENT AND AMPLIFY STUDENTS’ IMPACT

The Lewis Leadership Program’s community partners help ensure that our students connect their learning to the real world. Partners help teachers find guest speakers and field trip sites based on students’ interests, support student projects as mentors and coaches, foster career exploration through informal conversations, and create bridges to students’ desired futures by working with staff to craft internship opportunities. Here is a menu of options that describes some of what we have learned about the qualities of effective partnership ([link](#)).

STUDENTS AND STAFF INSPIRE EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION BEYOND LEWIS

As part of their work building the Lewis Leadership Program, students and staff have engaged in significant action research in connection with student voice, leadership development, deeper learning, work-based learning, and fostering belonging. They have shared their insights with educators across and beyond FCPS. The Lewis Leadership Program was also featured in Superintendent Reid's "Academic Matters" presentation to the School Board on May 6th ([video](#)).



Lewis students lead learning at a division-wide conference for FCPS teachers and leaders focused on Portrait of a Graduate



Lewis Leadership Program teacher Aggie Kowalski (ESOL) shares her work on the Global Classroom Project with School Board Member Marcia St. John-Cunning and educators across FCPS



Lewis Leadership Program students work as youth consultants for leadership teams from eight schools and central office at the division-wide Learning Model Community of Practice

OUR IMPACT - IN STUDENTS' WORDS



With support from Vanessa Paula (Lynbrook Elementary School), Lewis Leadership Program student leaders partnered with more than forty elementary peers for a service project focused on youth empowerment



Student leaders facilitate an arts and crafts fair to generate student art and writing for the Caravan for Disability Freedom and Justice on September 9th

Here is some of what our students said about their experience in the Lewis Leadership Program this year:

"As a leader, I've grown a lot. At the beginning of the year, I was unable to share my thoughts in class. But little by little, I've been able to contribute to projects, and even lead one of them. And as a person, it has helped me become more expressive, get to know more people, and make more friends." - Marjorie, rising senior

"For me, leadership used to be a scary word. But after all we did in this class, what I think leadership is: we are all different. Whatever you're good at, bring it to the community. Serve the community with what you're good at. Also as a leader, you work on the things you're not good at, to improve yourself." - Maliha, rising sophomore

"Our project affected people positively because we are giving opportunity and giving people a chance, including giving Lewis students a chance to make a difference. In order to complete this project, we also had to give ourselves a chance and learn new things." - Belen, rising senior

IMPORTANT DATES

September 9th, 9 AM - 11 AM: Caravan for Disability Freedom and Justice: [RSVP and Get Involved](#)
November 8th or 9th (TBD), 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM: Fall Exhibition of Student and Teacher Learning

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Donate to the Lewis Leadership Program through Educate Fairfax