



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPACT! LEADERSHIP EXCHANGE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS TO EMPOWER FUTURE FILIPINO AMERICAN LEADERS

Chicago 24 February 2020 – The US-Asia Institute, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Washington, D.C., has inaugurated the IMPACT!, a Filipino-American professional development program for Filipino-American young adults.

The program provides Filipino-Americans, aged 18-25 years old, holding US citizenship, with the opportunity to intern or shadow for two months on a national level in various offices of elected officials, public agencies or in organizations involved in the political governance, and policy-influencing arenas. This opportunity would help develop stronger understanding of how the U.S. government and political system work by experiencing it from an insider's perspective.

IMPACT! is a once-in a-lifetime experience for Filipino-American young adults to gain a first hand look at the American government and political system in Washington, D.C., to engage civically, and to reflect on the role they, as future leaders, might play in strengthening U.S.-Philippine relationship.

In this connection, the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago is assisting in disseminating information to qualified Filipino-American young adults in the Midwest. Applicants must submit the following requirements:

- Resumé with photo;
- Statement of intent as to what you wish to get out of the program (one-page maximum);
- A copy of most recent transcript (grades);
- A copy of your ID, passport or other official document as proof of US citizenship;
- 2 letters of recommendation – preferably one academic and one from a community service organization;
- Proof that parents or grandparents were former Filipinos;

Interested applicants may submit their respective applications directly to the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. through email legislative@phembassy-us.org or to the US Asia Institute (USAI) through email mary.sue.bissell@usasianinstitute.org (cc: cultural.chicagopcq@gmail.com) on or before 20 March 2020. **END**





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IMPACT! Filipino Americans

IMPACT! - a professional development program created by the US-Asia Institute (USAI) - is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Filipino-American young adults to gain a firsthand look at the American government and political system in Washington DC, to engage civically, and to reflect on the role they, as future leaders, might play in strengthening the US-Philippine relationship.

USAI launched its **IMPACT!** Leadership Exchange and Training programs to empower future leaders. The program

Inspires – **M**otivates – and **P**repares for **A**ction toward **C**ivic **T**ransformation

IMPACT! introduces young adults to their roles and responsibilities in becoming engaged in their community and beyond. It provides them with the skills and knowledge to participate in and transform into leaders in the democratic and electoral processes as well as civil society through a series of hands-on and interactive workshops, civic engagement, and placement in professional development positions in Washington DC.

This program would provide these young people with the opportunity to intern/shadow on a national level in various offices of elected officials, public agencies or in organizations involved in the political/government/policy influencing arena. This opportunity would help develop a stronger understanding of how government and the political system work by experiencing it from an insider's perspective. Further, the program will prepare these young leaders to participate in the civic arena, developing skills for those interested in public service and/or in becoming citizens involved in their communities. Not only will this be an invaluable professional experience, but it also benefits the Filipino-American community by increasing the interest of Filipino-Americans in American politics and civic engagement in the future.

In the United States, participation in the political process and being civically engaged are crucial to ensuring that a community's needs and concerns are heard and addressed. The **IMPACT!** program is one way to achieve this objective by finding a more effective way to support the Filipino American community's new generations to represent their own community politically and civically.

2020 Launch

It is proposed that this **IMPACT!** Program for Filipino-Americans will select its first cohort to come to Washington DC during Summer 2020 for eight weeks. The first week is orientation programming for the group, introducing them to Washington DC, the political and electoral processes; providing training and honing skills to prepare them for the professional development component; and facilitating interactive exercises, laying the foundation for success and further exploration. They are then placed in seven-week internship/shadowing programs across Washington DC. These placements are supplemented by other opportunities after work and on some weekends for engagement with peers and mentors. The final week is a wrap-up period where the participants complete a service project, share reflections, and set goals for future engagement.

Launching in 2020 – a Presidential election year – would be a bonus for those involved as the IMPACT! Program would give them a birds-eye view of the electoral process.

Candidate Qualifications

- Age 18-25 years old
- Enrolled as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student in good academic standing OR recently completed an undergraduate degree
- US citizenship
- Leadership ability and good interpersonal skills
- Record of community service
- Written and spoken fluency in English

Program Duration

- Program will be from 1 June to 24 July 2020

Required Documents

- Resume with photo
- Statement of Intent and Impact
- A copy of the most recent transcript
- A copy of ID, passport or other official document as proof of US citizenship
- A copy of parent's ID, passport or other official document as proof of Philippine citizenship of the candidate's parent
- 2 letters of recommendation, preferable one academic recommendation and one recommendation from a community service organization

Program Facts

Students are responsible for all expenses related to the program to include travel to Washington DC and return to home location; housing (inexpensive housing options are available at the suggestion of the US-Asia Institute, in coordination with others in the program, or on own); food; ground transportation throughout the program; cultural and spending money. All participants must, after acceptance into the program, show proof of health insurance and sign a liability waiver. Participants will receive the "Filipino American Youth Political Leadership Awards" in the amount of \$2000 each to help cover expenses for the program.

USAI is launching this program with the support of the Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C.

For More Information: Mary Sue Bissell, US-Asia Institute, 202-544-3181 or mary.sue.bissell@usasiainstitute.org