



MASTERS SERIES for Distinguished Leaders

A **one-of-a-kind** culturally sensitive, global leadership **excellence** experience, producing high **character**, difference makers, social innovators, quality **decision makers** and **community builders**.



MASTERS SERIES FOR DISTINGUISHED LEADERS (MSDL) was founded in 2008 by the **African American Leadership Family**, a cadre of accomplished veteran leaders, committed to nurturing and developing a new generation of difference making executive leaders. MSDL is a culturally sensitive, global leadership excellence and community service program for people of color in middle management, ages 25-45. It assists high performing business, government, and nonprofit leaders to impact their organizations, communities, and the underserved. MSDL has graduated nearly 200 gifted and talented executives since 2008.



African American Leadership Family; founded 1985 by Tom and Barbara Williams-Skinner (2nd & 3rd row, far right).

UNIQUENESS | MSDL focuses on the **internal qualities and skills of high performing leaders** such as *strength of character, integrity, resiliency, team building, win-win relationships, emotional intelligence, and the proper uses of power.*

UNIQUE PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Stellar intergenerational faculty.
- Exposure to high-level decision makers.
- Renowned leaders as Master Coaches.
- Mastery of effective communications.
- Life-work balance; executive wellness
- Public Policy skills development.
- Focus on confidence building
- Active MSDL Alumni network.

STELLAR FACULTY | MSDL's success is rooted in a bipartisan, intergenerational faculty of expert leadership developers, with access to top leaders across the globe, and a proven track record of equipping young leaders for exceptional performance.



MSDL Faculty (left to right), The Honorable Constance Newman, Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner, Dean, Dr. Therman Evans and Dr. Roger A. Mitchell, Jr. (not pictured Ms. Camille Glover)

POLICY BRIEFINGS WITH TOP LEADERS



MSDL Class VIII and Faculty with guest lecturer, Mr. James Duff, U.S. Supreme Court Administrator (*center*).



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, D-TX (*seated center*) sharing legislative priorities with MSDL Class IX and Faculty Team.

EXPOSURE TO TOP DECISION-MAKERS



MSDL Co-Founder and Dean, Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner with President Barack Obama.



MSDL guest speaker, Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA, 13th District) (*left*), with Dr. Barbara Williams Skinner.



MSDL Master Coach, Mr. David Carmen (*standing center*), global strategist, sharing reflections on power of relationships.



MSDL Faculty, Hon. Constance Newman (*left*) and Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner with author and social justice Champion, Mr. Jim Wallis. (*right*)

ROBUST ALUMNI FAMILY The theme of "**Stay Connected Family**" has been the cornerstone of the alumni network to reinforce the bonds of family and friendship among current and future MSDL Alumni through "Family Gatherings."



African American Leadership Family, MSDL Alumni, and MSDL Faculty and staff at the 2019 Family Brunch.

PHILOSOPHY | MSDL is built on a philosophy of **PROMISE DRIVEN LEADERSHIP**. MSDL Fellows move from **PURPOSE**, or the work a leader is called to do, to **PROMISE**, or the difference a leader is called to make to improve the human condition.

Promise Driven Leaders are always “*other-centered*,” making others around them better. They model **seven (7) character traits**. They are **Committed** to something bigger than themselves; **Considerate** of others; **Connected** to others; **Compassionate** toward others; **Confident** in their cause; **Conscientious** with excellence as their brand, and **Complementary** in always showing kindness toward others.

MSDL’s goal is to equip high-performing executives with the character and mindset of **Promise Driven Leadership**.

HOW IT WORKS | MSDL operates two days a month; **January to June** in a Hybrid Program (**Virtual and In-Person**)

- ❖ **Day One:** Interactive leadership skills building seminar - using the case study method; simulating real life leadership challenges and scenarios. Effective communication drills are done in each session.
- ❖ **Day Two:** MSDL Community Service Project to provide MSDL Fellows working in teams with an opportunity for practical application of promise-driven, difference-making leadership. Fellow/Master Coach Virtual Connections.
- ❖ **Final Presentations:** Fellows make a final presentation of their community service project proposal recommendations before an expert panel as a graduation requirement.

MASTERS SERIES CURRICULUM TOPICS

- ❖ **JANUARY - Session I:**
Leadership’s Intangible Qualities: Moving from Purpose to Promise Driven Leadership
- ❖ **FEBRUARY - Session II:**
Foundations of Effective Leadership: Character Strength, Integrity, and Resiliency
- ❖ **MARCH - Session III:**
Successful Leaders: Building Empowering, Win-Win Relationships
- ❖ **APRIL - Session IV:**
Effective Leaders: Mastering Equity and Inclusion in a Diverse World
- ❖ **MAY -Session V:**
Empowered Leaders: Understanding The Proper Uses of Power
- ❖ **JUNE - Session VI:**
Community Service Project Final Presentations and Graduation Ceremony.

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2025 SESSION DATES

WHEN: JANUARY 30-31 (*Traditional Classroom*)
FEBRUARY 27-28 (*Online Session*)
MARCH 27-28 (*Online Session*)
APRIL 24-25 (*Online Session*)
MAY 29-30 (*Traditional Classroom*)
JUNE 26-27 (*Traditional Classroom*)

HOW TO ENROLL: Individual cost - \$6000. Payment plans available.

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Please visit our website at www.MasterSeries.org for additional information to apply.

A program of Skinner Leadership Institute, 501 (c) (3) nonprofit, tax exempt organization.