

2023 Duke Leadership Academy  
Scholars and Quotes



“Through DLA I've made connections that will last the length of my career, and I've had time and space to really focus on learning more about leadership ”

**Alexandra de Havilland**



"If it doesn't challenge you, it doesn't change you." – Fred DeVito

**Alonzo Jaynes**



"A good team makes it rewarding to find time to tackle big projects."

**Allison Besch**



“Through my DLA experience, I have gained a much better perspective on how Duke’s wide range of organizational units align with one another. I’ve also made invaluable connections along the way.”

**Damaris Murry**



“This has been an incredible year long trip that has made me appreciate Duke, its mission and people even more and with the support of my DLA colleagues has prepared me for the next phase of my Duke Career.”

**Brendan Murphy**



“DLA has once again reminded me of what a supportive environment we have at Duke - from my teammates, to our amazing leadership who gave of their time and energy to speak to us and offer their time and advice.”

**Elinor Hurt**



"I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with so many thoughtful, strategic and hard-working colleagues, which gives me hope that Duke is well-positioned to take on the significant challenges facing higher education in the U.S."

**Geoff Krouse, J.D.**





"DLA provided me with the opportunity to strengthen my leadership and mentoring skills. The lessons I take away from this experience were the result of participating in the insightful seminars and collaborating with my amazing team."

**Gina Vizvary**



"It is affirming to connect and realize that we are all experiencing the same changes, challenges, and growth across the diverse subject areas that we manage and lead."

**Jeanna McCullers, J.D.**



“Being a member of the 2023 DLA has helped me to look inward to better understand my own strengths and opportunities as a leader, while also affording me the privilege of getting to know and working with so many amazing professionals from across Duke.”

**Jennifer Averitt**



"I've loved getting to network with peers across campus and share achievements and challenges with them!"

**Jennifer McCallister**



"My DLA experience has provided me with an opportunity for self-reflection and to expand my knowledge and skillset in the leadership realm, with the hope that I can now apply those lessons as I move along on my career path."

**Jill Borland**



“The 2023 DLA experience has provided invaluable exposure to Duke Leadership through the classes and speaker series, and I’ve been able to work with colleagues from across the organization to gain insight and tools to help me be a better leader for my team.”

**Johanna Zawada**



“The DLA broadened my understanding and appreciation of the many different departments at Duke, and I came away extremely impressed with the quality of young leadership at this university.”

**Joshua Schoedler**



“The most valuable portions of this program have been the exposure to Duke leaders sharing candid background stories and the connections made with impressive peers in the DLA.”

**Julie Siegmund**





**D** – Daring group of leaders who are  
**L** – Limitless in their ability to be  
**A** – Altruistic towards others

**Karis Boyd-Sinkler**



“The DLA has been a wonderful opportunity to meet other Duke leaders and feel more connected to the entire University.”

**Lynn Sutton**



“My experience in the DLA made me think of my legacy and personal growth, and the importance of showing up with authentic intention, connection, and curiosity in work and in life.”

**Martay Smith**



“Participating in the DLA this year was highlighted by the invaluable opportunity to establish a strong network of leaders and colleagues from all corners of the University.”

**Nicholas Alena**



“DLA has provided me a new lens to view my contributions to Duke through our coaching sessions and conversations with Duke leaders. More importantly, it has provided me insights from across the institution and a network of esteemed colleagues from our cohort.”

**Philip Duhart**



"I got so much out of the DLA:

1. a better understanding of the importance of developing leaders within your organization.
2. the opportunity to listen and ask questions of Duke leaders.
3. the experience to work closely on a team with professionals across Duke (go A.P. BOSS!)."

**Richard Outten**



“My time with DLA has been great in that I was able to connect with amazing colleagues and engage in introspective work to better myself as a more effective leader.”

**Sophia Brelvi**



“Lead from behind.”

**Sumetrice Porter**





“DLA has given me the opportunity to transform knowledge learned here into impact and drive innovation and change within my own institute (DCRI).”

**Willette Wilkins**



*"You cannot discover new oceans  
unless you have the courage to lose  
sight of the shore." - Daniel Abraham*

*- Keisha Williams*