Eisenhower School Seeking Business Executives for 2014 Class

Sponsored by the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Industry Fellows Program at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy was developed in support of the school’s vision of "government and industry working closely together to ensure national security.”

Congress approved the first civilian corporate executive to attend the school — formerly the Industrial College of the Armed Forces — in 1995.

Since then, it has received worldwide recognition as a premier senior business education program, and Congress has increased the number of available seats for industry to 20 per academic year.

The program is currently seeking applicants for the 2014 academic year.

To date, more than 100 Industry Fellows from more than 30 domestic and international companies have graduated from the program. It has included personnel from traditional defense industrial base companies such as weapon manufacturers and federal systems integrators. Recent enrollments include employees of health care, transportation, energy and consumer product goods companies, reflecting the changing demographics of government contracting and public/private partnerships. The typical candidate is one who has already been identified to have senior leadership potential, has 15 to 20 years of experience, and has demonstrated excellent business acumen. No specific government experience or familiarity with the military is required.

While the Industry Fellows contribute significantly to the richness of the programs, they also have many opportunities to share their experiences and help to educate their peer groups about the private sector and their own companies. Many graduates have risen to senior executive positions, building strong government/industry networks that they maintain throughout their career.

While officially part of a military education system, the Eisenhower School is truly a joint, interagency "whole-of-government" environment, with more than 30 government and civilian organizations represented across the faculty and student body.

Industry Fellows are prepared for future engagement throughout all areas of the government, giving them first-hand exposure to some of the challenges and tough decisions facing government and business leaders today.

Industry representation in the classroom offers the government students a greater divergence of thought and a wider spectrum of valuable insight and dialogue, promoting a stronger foundation for future partnership. This program builds a better relationship between government and the private sector — a relationship critical to our future national security needs.

The Eisenhower School offers an accredited, executive leadership development program paralleling top graduate schools nationwide. Students develop the skills needed to lead large, complex organizations in volatile and uncertain environments. A foundational element of the program is the comprehension of resource management as key to the successful execution of any business or government strategy. Students earn a masters of science degree in National Resource Strategy upon successful completion of this demanding 10-month program of study.

The curriculum provides a balance of traditional graduate lessons, case studies and exercises and real-world discussions with experienced professionals and government leaders. Students enjoy special guest speakers through the Distinguished Lecture Series, where they directly engage with some of our nation's top leaders such as four-star general officers, chief executive officers and members of the judicial, executive and congressional branches.

They also learn much from each other, embracing open dialogue, critical thinking and debate in the seminar room using the Socratic-style of teaching.

Eisenhower School students learn to be more strategic leaders, to include technical, conceptual and interpersonal competencies as they relate to leading, changing and transforming organizations in joint, interagency and multinational environments.

They learn how different business strategies affect the economy and how to apply analytics to better understand business decisions and strategies. At a more macro level, they also learn to synthesize domestic and international economic policy into a national economic strategy and how to understand defense resource-allocation in today’s budget-constrained environment.

Companies are invited to nominate one of their rising executives to attend the Eisenhower School. Admission is managed through a merit-based selection process. Application forms and additional information are available at http://www.ndu.edu/ical/programs/supplement/fellows/. To start the application process, contact: Eileen Daniels, Communications and Outreach director, at DanielsE@ndu.edu or (202) 685-4338; or Leanne Viera, partner at IBM and The Eisenhower School’s current industry chair and visiting professor, at Leanne.Viera@ndu.edu or (202) 685-4306.