



# STUDENT STATESMANSHIP INSTITUTE

## 2022 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



### A Message From Our CEO

It's no secret that the past few years have been difficult for many teens. At SSI we've been blessed to be a place of refuge for hundreds of students, providing community and support as they grow and mature.

Rather than be discouraged by the state of the world, we are invigorated by the challenge before us! We've seen great success during this season with God continuing to bless our ministry as we equip, empower, and engage the next generation. We work to provide a message of hope that is rooted in the Gospel; nowhere is that better seen than at our LEAD Summer Program.

*"Every year I've been here, I have walked in struggling and walked out thriving..."*  
Sarah P.

*"You have played such a part in my personal growth. I thank God for you... a 50-page letter wouldn't be enough to say 'thank you.'"*  
Philip C.



### A Fruitful Year

Our student and volunteer numbers have increased this year, with one week even hitting record highs! As the number of young people we serve grows, we are working diligently to expand our events and outreach. These new events include our annual Fall Fire-up in October, the "Not-Christmas" Party in January, and an all-new Winter Retreat! This Winter Retreat is our first program specifically designed for those who are beyond high school. We're excited for these new opportunities to minister and build community!

The high level of engagement we've seen within our programs this year would not be possible without all of our many partners. Hundreds of individuals, churches, businesses, and foundations come together to make this ministry possible. It is such an encouragement to know that we are striving together with so many people who are willing and excited to invest time, resources, and prayer in the next generation.

We are thankful and look forward to what God will do through HIS ministry in 2023!

For the next generation,

Joseph Cecil



# 2022 PROGRAMS & EVENTS

## LEAD Summer Program

It was an action-packed summer at LEAD as we returned to Spring Arbor University for three weeks of camp! We've seen a boost in student numbers, an increased return rate, and our largest single week of camp since 2009.

*"I literally feel fearless because LEAD pushed me so far out of my comfort zone." Colette K.*

*"What we do here is real. SSI teaches and instructs us on how to effectively handle real world situations. This is not just a simulation. This is preparation for life!" Sarah P.*

God truly blessed camp this year. We directly impacted 282 students, an increase over our 2021 registration numbers, and saw record numbers of volunteers. We simply could not run our programs without the over 200 dedicated volunteers who give of themselves each year.

*"This week was one of the most challenging things I've done in at least a decade (maybe more). It was also one of the most rewarding." LEAD Chaperone Kelli P.*

During a week of camp, our students built key life skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, and communication through our unique leadership simulations. They are presented with the Gospel each day and trained in the foundations of a Biblical worldview. They leave equipped to go out as courageous leaders in their communities.

## Ambassador League

It was a joy to see Ambassador League graduates honored at the Annual Banquet; we're proud of how each student has faced challenges and overcome them this year! Through Ambassador League's intensive program, these students are required to think deeply, act boldly, and engage with their faith and communities.

*"I was excited to see a program that could genuinely broaden my horizon, challenge me, and show me more of the world.... It is so good to see, learn, stretch, and become aware of more of God's goodness." Tina C.*

## Onsite Program

This dynamic legislative simulation provides an engaging civics and worldview curriculum. Students quickly learn to analyze data, practice critical thinking, and improve their debate and communication skills. It's exciting to see so many schools, churches, and homeschool groups utilize this program.

*"SSI... is a super fun and interactive learning experience on a very important subject!" Brianna S.*

## Statewide Impact

As you can see from the map, we have been blessed to engage this year with people from all across the lower peninsula! From students and parents to volunteers and supporters, it has been incredible to see the expanding impact of SSI's programs. By God's grace SSI will continue to share the message of hope through the Gospel, empower teens to make a difference in their communities, and broaden our impact across the state!

