



STUDENT STATESMANSHIP INSTITUTE

2023 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State of the Ministry: A 30 Year Legacy

What a year it has been! We thank God for His many blessings to the ministry this past year and especially as we reflect on the past thirty years of ministry.

Since our founding in 1993 over 10,000 young people have been impacted through our programs! This was only possible through the investment of our dedicated community of parents, churches, donors and volunteers who have faithfully partnered with us in our mission to engage, empower, and equip the next generation of leaders.

This year we continued to build on that legacy as we achieved the largest summer ever at the LEAD Summer Program and our second largest year of Onsite School Programs. The results are clear, just see what students from this summer had to say:

"LEAD is the perfect place for young adults to thrive, learn, and gain confidence in real life situations with the best kind of people around them." Cozy J.

"The minute I got there, I was welcomed into the arms of a bunch of loving, grateful people who just my my week to be the best it could be." Joe E.

2023 also saw our first Winter Retreat for those college and career aged. We also gathered at annual events such as the "Not" Christmas Party and Fall Fire-Up. We also celebrated at the Banquet which featured Lee Strobel, author of *The Case for Christ*. It is such an encouragement to come together with those who are striving together, willing, and excited to invest time, resources, and prayer in the next generation.

As we celebrate thirty years of ministry, we are continually reminded that we could not do this on our own. Only by the grace of God and generosity of his people can we invest in the next generation. Without this community, our ministry is not possible.

So it is with thankfulness that we look back and excitement that we look forward to what God will do through his ministry in the years to come.

For the next generation!

Joseph Cecil
SSI President & CEO



2023 PROGRAMS & EVENTS

LEAD Summer Program

Over the last four years, we have seen a consistent increase in the number of students attending LEAD. 2023 saw our largest summer ever (321 students), as well as our largest single week of camp since 2009!

The community at LEAD is incredible as students are challenged to exceed expectations. They leave equipped to serve in their communities as Ambassadors for Christ. Here's what a few of them had to say about LEAD:

"LEAD exceeded my expectations. I can feel Christ's presence and the Holy Spirit. It's been an experience like no other. I've been blessed to be here." Carter D.

"The best way that I can describe LEAD is comparing it to a tall glass of water for teenagers who are thirsty for something different, something challenging, and something real." Grace S.

"This week has proven to be more than I imagined in every aspect. This week has been so RICH." Fern C.

We are so grateful for how God used camp to directly impact the lives of these students. This would not be possible without our amazing volunteer base. Nearly 200 individuals who dedicate their time, talents, and treasure to help facilitate our programs each year.

Ambassador League

It was a joy to see our Ambassador League graduates honored at the Annual Banquet, and we are excited for the fourteen students registered for the 2023-2024 program! Through this immersive, year-round, curriculum, students are equipped with knowledge and firsthand experiences of our governing systems and their role as leaders.

"After this experience with Ambassador League, I have realized I have the ability and competence to take action... [this experience] shoved me out of my comfort zone, and now I don't want to go back in." Hannah R.

Onsite Program

This year we partnered with eight schools and multiple homeschool groups to bring our dynamic legislative simulation to over 300 students! This program provides an engaging civics and worldview curriculum. Then students learn to read legislation, analyze data, and improve their debate and communication skills as they complete the simulation as members of the state house!

"This was about preparing us to do whatever God has planned for us in an enthusiastic way for Him." Amanda H.

Statewide Impact

Our community comes from all across Michigan and the country! We are so blessed to be able to partner with churches and schools across our great state. This year we had students from over 210 churches and over 60 schools and homeschool groups.