



HUNT|KEAN

LEADERSHIP FELLOWS





# Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows

The *Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows* program seeks to partner with senior-level political leaders who have the knowledge, skill, and will to be effective, reform-minded education policymakers at the state level. Named for renowned education governors Jim Hunt (D-NC | 1977-1985; 1993-2001) and Tom Kean (R-NJ | 1982-1990), the national, non-partisan *Fellowship* will launch in the fall of 2014. Ongoing support through The Hunt Institute's research, tools, and mentors will be available to alumni, if desired.

## Vision

Education is the most important investment we can make to strengthen our nation's economy and society. Senior, state-level policymakers have enormous influence over our complex education system, and yet, all too often these leaders are required to assume massive responsibilities with little background in education policy. Our vision is to help political leaders develop a deeply rooted vision for educational improvement.

The *Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows* – **unlike any other Fellowship in the nation** – will provide political leaders with the core knowledge they need to cultivate smart and effective education agendas. The program will:

- Expose *Fellows* to the best research and analyses on innovative and successful education policies and practices;
- Provide an environment that welcomes distinct views and fosters debate on multifaceted education issues; and
- Introduce *Fellows* to other leaders directing successful reform efforts across the nation.

*Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows* will be part of an elite group of the highest-ranking elected state officials in the nation who have committed themselves to a K-12 education policy immersion, but participation does not require *Fellows* to adopt any particular policy position or ideological framework.

By investing in America's political leaders, we aim to build a cadre of informed and motivated educational change agents with the necessary influence to reform state education systems and improve outcomes.





**Jim Hunt**  
(D-NC | 1977-1985; 1993-2001)



**Tom Kean**  
(R-NJ | 1982-1990)

# The Prototypes

Both Democrat Jim Hunt and Republican Tom Kean are uniquely qualified for the title “Education Governor.” As the state’s only four-term governor, Jim Hunt led North Carolina through an unprecedented period of educational improvement and economic growth. With a particular focus on early childhood development and improving the quality of teaching in America, Governor Hunt is ranked with U.S. presidents and secretaries of education as one of the 10 most influential people in American education. As a former teacher, education policy was of special importance to Governor Tom Kean, who propelled change in New Jersey following the report, *A Nation at Risk*. Governor Kean proposed, among other things, raising beginning teacher salaries, instituting statewide high school graduation tests, and adopting new approaches to education in urban schools. He, too, has been rated among America’s most effective state leaders. Whether blazing audacious trails in early childhood education, establishing national teacher certification, connecting education and economic development, making historic NAEP gains, or fighting to raise teacher salaries, these governors understood the essential components of a coherent education policy agenda, how to establish and articulate a long-term vision, and how to use the bully pulpit to inform and move public policy. Hunt and Kean define what it takes to become gubernatorial legend.



# Program Design

The *Fellowship* includes two in-person sessions – six days total – where *Fellows* will have the opportunity to engage with leading minds in education, policy, and politics. *Fellows* will have the unique opportunity to engage with a wide array of former governors, representing both political parties, who will share their invaluable knowledge and advice. *Fellows* will also participate in an intensive site visit of an area school as a cohort, as well as conduct school site visits in their own states.

The curriculum is designed to help policymakers understand the complex issues involved in developing successful schools and advancing sound strategies to improve teaching, learning, and student achievement. While *Fellows* will have the opportunity to explore many education policy issues, the in-person sessions will focus on the following topics:

## Session 1:

*Standards, Assessments, Accountability & Choice*

This session is designed to provide *Fellows* with a firm grounding in the importance of rigorous standards, aligned assessments, and strong accountability systems. *Fellows* will explore student achievement data and policies from their home states, as well as across the nation. The second half of the session will explore the policy mechanisms states are using to provide educational options to students and their parents and the merits and challenges of school choice reforms.

## Session 2:

*Educator Effectiveness*

This session will explore the multitude of issues around educator effectiveness, including preparation, evaluation, compensation, and strong school leadership. *Fellows* will grapple with the ways in which these policies influence—and sometimes hinder—each other and the challenges involved in ensuring that every classroom in their states is led by a highly effective teacher.





## On-Site Learning Experiences:

At the two on-site sessions, *Fellows* will be provided with a wide range of learning experiences, including:

**Conversations with Noteworthy Policymakers:** This type of learning session features a high-level, current or former, policymaker who will engage with *Fellows* on the broad policy issues and provide inspiration and framing for the discussions that follow.

**Policy Discussions:** High-energy sessions featuring 2-3 experts who will probe *Fellows'* thinking on the challenges and policy implications of the topic at-hand and provide additional knowledge building as needed.

**Study Group Discussions:** These sessions allow *Fellows* the opportunity to grapple more deeply with a topic, as well as occasionally customize their experiences by choosing from several topics. Groups of 3-4 *Fellows* will engage in a facilitated deep dive discussion, case study analysis, or examination of model policy, among other potential activities.

**Strategy Breakouts:** These sessions will feature former governors and allow *Fellows* to consider political and strategy implications in a more intimate setting.

**Site Visits and Classroom Perspective:** These visits and sessions will provide *Fellows* with a chance to see various issues first-hand and expose them to the point of view of current practitioners. The initial site visit will also focus on ensuring that *Fellows* have the tools they need to conduct site visits in their own states during the interim.

## Off-Site Learning Experiences:

In advance of each session, *Fellows* will be provided with concise, to-the-point policy briefs and state-specific data briefings to help spark their thinking and prepare them for the in-person learning experiences. *Fellows* will also be offered opportunities to expand their knowledge of issues not directly covered during the two in-person sessions, such as early childhood education, through off-site learning experiences, including:

**Distance Learning Opportunities:** *Fellows* will be offered multiple opportunities to expand their knowledge and dive deeper into issues that interest them through review of expert videos, case studies, policy briefs, model legislation, and other distance learning activities.

**Personalized, In-State Session:** A one-day session, guided by Hunt Institute staff, will offer an opportunity for *Fellows* to engage with their states' key educational leaders in a private setting and allow time for individual consultation.

**In-State School Site Visits:** Extending on the cohort site visit at the first in-person session, each *Fellow* will participate in a site visit to a school or teacher preparation program in his or her home state. *Fellows* will debrief their experiences at the second in-person session.

**Monthly Strategy Call:** *Fellows* and alumni will have access to a monthly call to facilitate discussion of timely education policy activities occurring in their states, other states, and at the national level.

**Hunt Institute Convenings:** *Fellows* will receive invitations to all of The Hunt Institute's convenings where they can continue to gain knowledge to help them make informed decisions that will advance educational excellence in their states.

**Quarterly "What's Trending" newsletter from The Hunt Institute:**

The Hunt Institute will compose a quarterly newsletter for current *Fellows* and alumni. "What's Trending" will include information on current state and national education policy trends.

**The Hunt Institute's Weekly "News You Can Use":** Produced by The Hunt Institute, "News You Can Use" is a weekly e-mail sampling of current news media coverage about education policy and programs.



## Advisory Board

The *Fellows Advisory Board* will consist of former governors who put education at the center of their agendas, learned from the practical experiences of other governors, and utilized gubernatorial leadership as a lever to make systemic changes that resulted in improved student achievement. Members of the *Advisory Board* will be asked to serve as experts and provide counsel to participants throughout their *Fellowship* experience.

## Alumni

As each cohort completes the *Fellowship*, its members will become part of a national network of well-informed education policy leaders. The Institute will stay connected to *Fellows* after the program by providing them with briefings, resource bank access, and invitations to other national and state Institute functions.





## About The Hunt Institute

The Hunt Institute was established in 2001 to inspire and equip governors, legislators, and other state-level policymakers to make informed decisions that improve the lives of all children through quality public education. For more than a decade, The Institute has been working at the intersection of policy and politics – helping policymakers understand the complex issues involved in developing successful schools; providing unbiased, research-based analyses of education reform efforts; and advancing sound strategies to improve teaching, learning, and student achievement.

The Institute is a non-profit, non-partisan center affiliated with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



For more information about the *Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows*, please contact Fellows Director, Javaid Siddiqi, at **919-425-4171** or **[jsiddiqi@hunt-institute.org](mailto:jsiddiqi@hunt-institute.org)**.