PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Each year over 4,000 African American high school students compete for the prestigious Ron Brown Scholarship. Candidates undergo a rigorous screening which involves assessment of their academic achievements, leadership experience, writing skills, commitment to service and financial need.

Between 45-50 students will be awarded and named Ron Brown Scholars annually. The remaining top 2-3% of top applicants are named Captains and invited to join our invitation-only Ron Brown – Ruth and Norman Rales Leaders Network where they receive personal and professional development services alongside Ron Brown Scholars. These students can be found at the nation’s top universities where they consistently hold significant leadership roles and carry on the late Secretary of Commerce, Ronald H. Brown’s commitment to service.

MISSION

The Ron Brown Scholar Program is committed to improving the lives of intellectually gifted, community and public service-minded African Americans by accelerating their progress into impactful leadership roles and opportunities.

VISION

Cultivate the next generation of transformational leaders who positively impact their communities, blaze new paths in their chosen careers and professions.
The Ron Brown Scholar Program is the gift that keeps on giving. Twenty years ago, when I became a Ron Brown Scholar, I had no idea that the Program would be such an integral part of my life — mentorship and guidance, opportunities to serve and to learn, and a source of lasting relationships that grow year to year. It has been an immeasurable blessing to be a part of this family. I plan to give back to it for years to come.

Karla Hardy Aghedo, Ron Brown Scholar, 2001
Managing Attorney, The Aghedo Firm, PLLC  
UVA School of Law, 2010  
Iowa State University, 2005

The Ron Brown Leaders Network provided me with resources and support that I needed to successfully pursue my career as a software engineer. A few examples of this support were resume workshops, 1:1 sessions with role models in my industry, and internships. Not only have I made long-lasting friendships within the Ron Brown Leaders Network and through my internships, I've established strong relationships where I am able to continue grow professionally and personally.

Ryan Whitfield, Ron Brown Captain, 2014
Software Engineer, Amazon Prime  
NYU Cyber Security Fellow  
BS Princeton 2018

We’re so excited to be able to partner with an amazing organization that provides support to Scholars at some of the top universities around the country. The Wake Forest and Ron Brown Scholar Program partnership started in 2014. It was a shared commitment to support opportunities for the Scholars and encourage them to consider what Wake Forest School of Business has to offer. Ron Brown Scholars embody what we’re looking for in students.

Ashley Jones
Assistant Director, Enrollment Management, Wake Forest University
Who is in the Network

- 1300+ Undergraduate Students
- 20 Corporate Partners
- 13 Educational Partners
- Leaders Network Council Members
- Professional Career/Leadership Development Advisors

Network Services Include

- Job & Internship Placement Support
- Annual Ron Brown Leaders Summit
- Women in STEM Community
- Resume and LinkedIn Clinics
- Virtual Career Education Programs
- Case Competitions
- Mentorship Programs
- Virtual and Regional Networking Events
- Alumni Advising Hours

Statistics

- Scholars and Captains are spread across 200 colleges nationwide
- 30-40% attend Ivy League schools
- Top 5 colleges: Harvard, Stanford, Yale, MIT, Duke

Academic Profile of Students Entering the Network

- GPA – 4.2
- SAT Combines Scores – 1410
- ACT Composite Scores – 31

Partnership Outcomes

- 100% of our partners currently have at least one full-time employee from the Ron Brown – Ruth and Norman Rales Leaders Network.
- 100% of companies who partner with us for full-service recruiting support have made successful hires in each of the past 3 years.
- 85% of our interns eligible for return offers from their company in 2020 received an offer, as compared to national average of 70%.

Career Interests

- Business | 27%
- Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math | 26%
- Health & Medicine | 20%
- Public Policy & Social Services | 15%
- Media & Communications | 6%
- Education | 4%
- Arts, Entertainment, & Sports | 2%
ANNUAL EVENTS

WINTER
• First Year Resume Clinic
• Undergraduate Winter Case Competition
• Ongoing Career Programs
• 2-3 Monthly Webinars

SPRING
• Student-to-Student Advising Session
• Company Presentations
• Ongoing Career Programs
• 2-3 Monthly Webinars
• American Journey Award

SUMMER
• Ron Brown Leaders Summit
• Women in STEM
• Ron Brown Scholar Alumni Leadership Conference
• Application Launch Events
• 2-3 Monthly Webinars

FALL
• Back to School Events
• Resume Clinic
• Application Parties
• 2-3 Monthly Webinars

ronbrown.org/ron-brown-leaders-network/
hduke@ronbrown.org