Thanks to you, the founders and friends of the Eli Segal Citizen Leadership Program, we have seen five years of vibrant growth and success. The handful of exceptional young leaders who walked through our doors and launched the program's first year are now part of an expanding citizen-leader network. Each new class of Segal Fellows builds on the experience, discovery and confidence of the Fellows who preceded them and remain their partners in service. Their impact on our communities grows exponentially.

So we mark our first five years with a thriving program, increasingly able to help make America stronger, healthier, prosperous and fair —to find solutions for community problems; to help improve business practices and leverage private support for local projects; and to strengthen our democracy by creating opportunities for citizens to serve.

Eli would be thrilled with our progress but, as you know, he would not be complacent. He would be the first to toast our five-year milestone and the first to remind us that we still have miles to go. He would urge us to keep at it until we can get things done on a scale commensurate with the challenges facing our country and our world. And so—keeping in mind Eli’s beautiful and stubborn trust in the power of people who serve—I ask you to recommit yourselves to the Segal Program, to support it financially and to advocate for our wonderful Segal Fellows.

With gratitude,

Phyllis N. Segal
CONNECTION TO A FELLOW KEEPS THE SPIRIT ALIVE

I was honored to serve as a Segal Coach this summer. It was a pleasure for three main reasons: First, mentoring allowed me to help keep alive the memory of one of the finest people and public servants this country has seen – Eli Segal (who left a rich legacy of mentoring others); second, it provided me the chance to amplify President Clinton’s focus on community service; and third, it gave me the privilege of working with one of America’s next generation of leaders, David Duhalde-Wine.

David has deep passion for working people with a particular focus on fair wages. We met about once a week for lunch – frequently at a small restaurant in Grand Central Station in New York. David taught me a great deal. His passion energized me and reminded me of my intensity when I first got involved with politics working for the Mondale and Dukakis campaigns in the ’80s.

In return, I encouraged David to dig deeper about the ways he could make an impact. I asked him to think about building bridges with people outside the Labor movement and with individuals who would bring a totally different perspective to an issue. I introduced David to other passionate progressives so that he could deepen his understanding of connected issues and see how other people developed their careers.

David and I also laughed a lot and ate some great food. In those informal discussions we built a connection that Eli would have been proud of.

I’m so pleased I participated in the program. I’m quite sure I benefited much more from the experience than David. After all, one day I’ll probably be working for him or someone in his new network!

Founder Steve Silverman, Executive of Citi Group

SEGAL RETREAT INSPIRES LEADERSHIP

Fellows from all corners of the country gathered in Waltham, Mass., in early November for the annual retreat. Friends new and old bonded over good food, bowling and personal development activities. After last year’s retreat, where fellows gathered to formalize the structure of a democratically organized Segal Program full of committees, councils and chairs to oversee it, this fall we saw the results of those efforts. From logistics to meaningful activities and workshops, Management Fellow Tam Emerson and several other fellows delivered a carefully and deliberately structured retreat for personal reflection, growth and group leadership. In workshops on topics from healthcare reform to non-profit business models to building a portfolio, fellows taught others in 20-minute mini-lessons, showcasing both their knowledge and experience in a wide range of career fields. As fellows continue to adopt leadership roles, encouraging one another to contribute creative ideas and proposals, next year’s retreat awaits the impressive goals we set out to achieve over the next year and beyond.

Jon Ostrowsky, 2011 Segal Fellow (Brandeis)

“My Segal coach, Steve Silverman, a corporate citizen leader, quickly turned into a valuable mentor for me this summer. He challenged me to think differently about citizen leadership, and to search for common ground with corporate citizens to get things done. He helped me network with other social justice professionals. The Segal network has been a wonderful addition to my life.”

David Duhalde, 2012 Segal Fellow (Brandeis MPP)
SEGAL FELLOW STRIVES TO SHINE LIKE ELI

Rhonda Ulmer, 2008 Segal Fellow (AmeriCorps Alums)

Being an Eli J. Segal Fellow has given me the platform to serve beyond my years of AmeriCorps. As a fellow, I’ve been encouraged not only to serve but to lead. The Fellows, many of whom have become close friends, have supported me over the last three years through my battle with cancer. They have encouraged me to never give up on the good fight. My children have been impacted by this program’s ripples of hope, too. With the help of Fellow Audrey Etlinger, my 13-year-old son received a scholarship to attend a summer science camp at MIT. Audrey and her fiancé hosted him for the week. They ate ice cream, went to a Red Sox game, and spent lots of quality time together. It was the highlight of his summer!

Eli Segal left a legacy for us to follow. He inspired others through his positive example, and I strive to do the same. Equally important, the encouragement and connections I’ve made as a result of this program have been life-changing, and I am proud and honored to call myself an Eli Segal Fellow.

Rhonda Ulmer, 2008 Segal Fellow (AmeriCorps Alums)

SEALING AMERICORPS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Eli’s spirit was in the air on AmeriCorps Alums Day at the White House on Friday, August 17. More than 150 AmeriCorps alumni from 25 states came together for this daylong briefing. It was filled with poignant moments and personal accolades.

Segal Fellows and AmeriCorps alumni Aaron Chalek (’12 MPP Brandeis Segal Fellow), Will Chrysanthos (’11 CNCS Segal Fellow), and Julie Proulx (’07 CNCS Segal Fellow) joined the conversation and honored Segal Fellow Rhonda Ulmer (’08 AmeriCorps Alums), a White House “Champion of Change” for her leadership in empowering the parents of Anne Arundel County, Md., with educational resources to support their children.

With pride, passion and high energy, alumni spoke of the ways their experiences in service have propelled their professional careers, resonated in their daily lives, and transformed communities around the globe.

White House officials addressed the group, including Segal Program Founder and White House Chief of Staff Jack Lew and recently appointed Corporation for National and Community Service CEO Wendy Spencer. Macon Phillips, White House Director of Digital Strategy and proud AmeriCorps VISTA alum, recounted that as an AmeriCorps member he was “given more responsibility than I deserved” – a sentiment strongly endorsed and elevated by Eli – which has helped Segal Fellows and many other young Americans pursue positions of leadership throughout the world.

Julie Proulx, 2007 Segal Fellow (CNCS)

SEALING INTERNSHIPS PRIME NEXT CITIZEN LEADERS

Gauris Frias, 2012 Brandeis Segal Fellow, was with our firm Next Street, a social enterprise that provides advisory services and growth capital to urban small businesses and nonprofits, this past summer. His work with us is a prime example of how the Segal Program is supporting the development of the next generation of citizen leaders. Throughout the summer, Gauris worked with us on a range of mission-critical projects, including our social impact assessment strategy.

Working collaboratively with senior leadership, he played a key role in conducting research, analyzing data, and developing strategies to measure Next Street’s impact on our clients. It was a pleasure having Gauris on our team and we look forward to continue as a proud supporter of the Eli J. Segal Citizen Leadership Program in the years ahead.

Segal Founder Tim Ferguson, Founder, Chair and Managing Partner of NextStreet Financial

“I think you hear a lot of the same things from those of us who loved Eli. There was this kind of passion for action and engagement - we don’t have to share that with the Segal Fellows, they do that every day.”

Founder David Belluck
FELLOW PURSUES A LIFE OF PURPOSE AND ACTION

I'm thankful for this program because Eli Segal’s legacy inspires me, its Founders mentor me, and the Fellows have become some of my closest friends.

For the past year, I worked in Wisconsin on the Obama campaign. I loved it. I worked harder than I ever have before, I was in a role that felt meaningful and challenging every day, and we won! I hope Eli would have been proud. It was about a year ago when I began thinking through this opportunity. Many Fellows and Founders encouraged me to pursue this, and then helped me make it happen.

It came full circle when I held a gathering for new Fellows in DC last summer. Since entering the program in its infancy stage in 2009, I’ve had the opportunity to be a mentor, friend, and connector for new Fellows. And, in the true spirit of Eli, I will continue to invest in this program and challenge fellows, and myself, to become ever better citizen leaders, holding a promise to each other and our country to “get things done.”

Jason Gray,
2009 Segal Fellow (Brandeis)

“Most foundations that carry someone’s name too often lose that person’s spirit over time. The essence of what initially brought people together ends up lost. What’s so great about this program is that those who truly loved and were inspired by Eli continue to pass along his ideals and passions, and in a way he has become a mentor for an entirely new generation.”

Founder Debra DeLee

LETTER FROM A SEGAL FELLOW

I wanted to thank the Segal Program, and its supporters, by telling you I’ve officially enlisted as an AmeriCorps member at Citizen Schools! As a Segal Fellow originally from Brandeis, I was inspired by the Fellows who served in AmeriCorps.

As things begin to fall into place, I want to thank you for believing in me and for conveying the essence of public service and commitment to the common good. My experiences with the Segal Program have encouraged me to serve – and lead – in my community.

Over the next two years I’ll be playing dual roles, as coordinator for Family-Student Engagement and as a teacher, in the Bronx. I’m not sure if it will be easy, but it will be worth it. And one thing I know for sure, I can do anything with the support of my family and the Segal Program. Look forward to giving you updates as I go! :)”

Yvonne Perez,
2011 Segal Fellow (Brandeis)

“As an emerging leader interested in the advancement of the minority population, my Segal placement at Next Street Financial was an ideal fit because Next Street’s mission aligns with my passion and career aspirations. It opened doors for me, connected me with people who were truly interested in helping me succeed and was overall an incredible experience both professionally and personally.”

Gauris Frias,
2012 Segal Fellow (Brandeis)
Welcomed 12 new fellows, bringing the total number of Segal Fellows to 59

Hired new Management Fellow Tam Emerson, Segal Fellow 2008 (City Year)

5 Fellows participated in the 2012 White House AmeriCorps Alums Day

6 Segal Fellows educated Congressional leaders, including Senator John Kerry and Congressman Ed Markey, around the importance of National Service

7 Fellows attended a social entrepreneurship event with newly elected Congressman Joe Kennedy III

Completed 8 successful policy internships in Boston, New York and Washington, DC.

100+ Segal Network members attended events in Washington, DC and NYC

Presented *Hearts on Fire: Changemakers and Philanthropy in Action*, an evening with Segal Founder, Jill Iscol

Held 14 leadership development activities, attended by 36 Fellows from 12 states. Fellows organized and led activities supported by Founders, program staff and others

Developed and are implementing three-year strategic plan to expand successful program activities, assure sustainability, systematize evaluation and build brand

Launched Segal Seminar on Citizen Leadership at the Heller School at Brandeis
I decided to invest in the Segal Program initially because I was a friend of Eli’s and I wanted to honor him and remember him. But I don’t think I would still be investing if that were the only reason, and what’s happened with this program is tremendously exciting and true to the spirit of the Eli I knew. And seeing so many fellows who are so committed and supporting one another and wanting to carry that legacy forward makes me want to keep investing.”

Founder Shirley Sagawa