

# YOUNG LEADERS INSTITUTE 2013

Cultivate skills. Connect with community. Create change.

## Young Leaders Institute 2013 Report

On July 19-21, 2013, SAALT convened 15 university students from across the country at the second *Young Leaders Institute* in Washington, DC. The Institute offered young leaders the opportunity to build leadership skills, connect with activists and mentors, and explore social change strategies around issues that affect South Asian and immigrant communities in the US. The Institute was designed to cultivate skills to deepen knowledge and awareness; strengthen and nurture relationships with diverse communities; and empower young leaders to be agents of change.



The Young Leaders Institute 2013 specifically focused on the increasing trends of bias-based bullying and harassment affecting South Asian youth, young adults, and families. Participants explored South Asia American history; social change movements; the intersections of identity and power; the implications of xenophobia and post-9/11 backlash; and resources for addressing bullying and countering ignorance, misunderstanding, and prejudice. Students developed action plans to address bias-based bullying on their campuses and in their communities.

The *Young Leaders Institute* was made possible through the generous support of Comcast and Southwest.



**“I’ve learned so much- I’ve learned how to pitch an idea to somebody, I’ve learned how to make allyships with other groups, which is incredibly important when building a coalition, and also made amazing connections with fourteen of the most amazing South Asian students I’ve ever met in my life. All of that has really made YLI an amazing experience.”**

**- Medha  
Georgetown University**

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## Young Leaders

15 university students representing 14 campuses and cities across the U.S. attended the 3-day intensive training.

### Universities

Amherst College  
*Boston, MA*

Baruch College  
*New York, NY*

Columbia University  
*New York, NY*

CUNY City College of New York  
*New York, NY*

Georgetown University  
*Washington, DC*

Humboldt State University  
*Arcata, CA*

University of Texas at Austin  
*Austin, Texas*

Indiana University  
*Bloomington, IN*

Purdue University  
*West Lafayette, IN*

University of Alabama  
*Tuscaloosa, AL*

University of California, Berkeley  
*Berkeley, CA*

University of California, Los Angeles  
*Los Angeles, CA*

University of Oklahoma  
*Norman, OK*

Virginia Commonwealth University  
*Richmond, VA*



**“YLI 2013 has inspired me to keep moving and not stopping because I know that there are others who are still out there changing their communities, and there is no reason for me to stop either.”**

**- Nikhat  
Baruch College**

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## Next Steps

SAALT will continue to work with Young Leaders Institute students in a variety of ways:

- Support the further development and implementation of Action Plans to create social change on the campuses and in local communities. Some Action Plans will seek to address bias-based bullying in the following ways:
  - Social media campaigns allowing students to discuss their experiences around bias-based bullying
  - Modification of campus bias reporting system in order to more accurately collect and respond to incidents of bias within the campus community
  - Campus workshops to discuss experiences with bullying and bias in an open and safe environment
  - Journalism series highlighting personal stories around bias-based bullying on campus
- Host monthly group conference calls to identify project support needs, share report backs, and encourage peer exchange and accountability.
- Conduct program evaluation to ensure continued evolution of better practices.
- Highlight and share with SAALT supporters the work of students through social media, website, and blogging.
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in *Be the Change*, SAALT's annual national day of volunteerism that encourages communities to answer Mahatma Gandhi's challenge to "Be the change you wish to see in the world".
- Provide opportunities for students to engage with SAALT's local, regional, and national work around issues such as civic and political engagement, immigration, racial profiling, and bullying.
- Partner with Institute Fellows to develop *Young Leaders Institute 2014* to ensure a robust annual training and active participant ownership.

**“My passion for social justice and civil rights brought me to YLI. If it weren't for Southwest, it probably would have been a lot more difficult for me to participate in YLI. Thanks to Southwest's generosity, I was able to come here and have this wonderful experience.”**

**- Natasha  
UT Austin**

