

# Center for Executive Education

A primary mission of Brookings is to impact policy-makers and thought leaders. One way this mission is being carried out is through the Brookings Center for Executive Education (BCEE), which presents the research and recommendations of Brookings experts directly to a diverse audience of public- and private-sector executives.

“Our programs give our scholars an opportunity to share their work with new audiences,” said Terry Goodwin, senior director of BCEE. “We have provided hundreds of briefings to inform the front-line executives who run America’s industries and government agencies and play an increasingly important global role.”

This year alone, Brookings experts from all five research programs spoke at BCEE courses—a total of 73 times. When the Department of Defense’s Joint Warfare Analysis Center asked BCEE to craft a custom course on strategic thinking for its commanders and division heads, Senior Fellow Peter Singer was tapped to co-direct the program with the BCEE staff. Singer, who is director of the 21st Century Defense Initiative at Brookings, gained an opportunity to put his cutting-edge research in front of his target audience: the commanders and division heads who shape defense policy.

Executives from more than 175 companies and federal government agencies—from Boeing and Caterpillar to the National Institutes of Health and the Social Security Administration—participate in BCEE courses each year. And the Legis Congressional Fellowship program allows man-

agers from the government and private industry to spend up to one year working in congressional offices to develop relationships and knowledge that will endure throughout their careers.

“The Legis program experience has allowed me to work directly on U.S. trade policy issues—my own area of expertise—and also branch out into issues like defense and foreign policy,” said Miguel Hernandez, Department of Commerce, who spent his fellowship in the office of Sen. Barbara Boxer of California. “I worked with people I typically never encountered at Commerce and came away from this experience understanding my own field so much better,” he said.

Federal managers who sign up for BCEE programs are awarded a Certificate in Public Leadership after completing a total of 20 course days at Brookings. More than 200 government executives aspiring to join the ranks of the Senior Executive Service are currently pursuing this credential from Brookings.

New executive education offerings this year include one-day workshops on Creative Leadership and Women’s Leadership.

Within the BCEE curriculum, there are many innovative opportunities for participants to question ideas and absorb new information. At “Food For Thought” dinners, attendees dine in small groups at tables hosted by Brookings experts, allowing them to spend a couple of hours discussing policy ideas in detail. Guests can discuss the economics of marriage with Senior Fellow Isabel V. Sawhill, a co-director of the Center on Children and Families, or quiz Tamara Cofman Wittes, senior fellow in Foreign Policy studies, on Hezbollah.

So, does attendance at BCEE



A Brookings group enjoys a private tour of the U.S. Capitol with former Rep. Jim Moody of Wisconsin.

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sessions create better executives? There is clear evidence that it does. In February 2008, 20 percent of the 333 Presidential Rank Awards given by President George W. Bush for exceptional government service went to alumni of BCEE programs.

Barbara Kakiris from NASA

completed her Certificate in Public Leadership this year. She said, “Brookings satisfied my need for intellectual engagement and learning from others. They really push you to think in ways that you wouldn’t normally. I was stunned by the caliber of people who lead the programs.” ■