

ALF Call For Nominations 2020

*Please take a moment to review the following extremely important information on our nomination and selection process for our next Core Classes. I realize this is a lot of information, but it is critical that each of us understand and participate in the identification and selection of future Fellows. **The strength and future of our movement is our shared responsibility.***

This is a call for nominations for ALF Classes that will begin in May and June of 2021. At this time we anticipate offering at least two, and possibly three, Core Classes next year. Selection Vice Chair, Nancy Li-Tarim, Class XXVIII, and I will be leading the selection effort this year.

The ALF Fellows Program provides leaders with an opportunity to engage in dialogue, explore differences, and build relationships. ALF strengthens Fellows' capacity to address public issues collaboratively and builds a strong leadership network to work for positive change in our community. We cannot overemphasize the importance of identifying and inviting those who currently hold leadership positions as well as those who we believe will be assuming greater leadership in the near term. These are the individuals whose decisions will impact our entire community and each of our lives. One of the greatest gifts that we can give to them and our community is the capacity that ALF develops that helps Fellows to truly value, seek and process the input of others – especially from those with whom they differ. Please share this opportunity with someone you respect by nominating them for the next class.

Our goal continues to be the creation of classes comprised of Fellows who are extraordinary people, who have demonstrated leadership both professionally and in the community, and who represent the rich diversity of the Houston/Gulf Coast region. We look for Fellows who seek to collaborate with others on the critical issues necessary to improve our community. To meet our goal, we need your careful consideration to nominate those men and women -- leaders in their areas -- who will make up these classes.

We believe that as the Houston/Gulf Coast grows and changes, leaders from all sectors need to be represented in the ALF membership. We continue to do an excellent job in this regard. However, based on our experience from the past few years, categories in which we would like to continue to emphasize this year are:

- **Leaders from our faith communities including both clerical and lay leaders**
- **Community philanthropists including individuals and leaders of philanthropic organizations**
- **Corporate leaders**
- **Public Service leaders particularly from Harris and surrounding county governments and agencies as well as from city and municipal areas across our Gulf Coast region**
- **Men – only about one-third of nominations over the past few years have been men**
- **Leaders from our Hispanic/Latino, Asian, South Asian and Middle Eastern communities**
- **Leaders who bring diverse political and social viewpoints**

We encourage nominations of leaders who live or work across the entire **Gulf Coast Region** including Ft. Bend, Montgomery, Galveston and other surrounding counties.

We will continue the process we have followed in recent years and invite people to join the class on a rolling basis beginning in September and work until each class is full. If you have questions about the process or the status of a candidate, please call Dan Snare.

It is important that each nomination be seconded by another Senior Fellow who knows the candidate. Please be sure to include the name of the Senior Fellow who is seconding your nomination upon the nomination form. If you have questions or need help in finding someone to second one of your nominations, please call Dan Snare for assistance.

Please submit your nominations by June 12, 2020 on the attached form or go to www.alfhouston.org and click on “Nominate a Fellow.” If you need additional time to submit any nomination, please let us know and we will do our best to work with you. However, we ask that you make this a priority so that our committee can give the proper consideration to every deserving candidate.

While the candidate need not know that you are submitting a nomination, you can tell the candidate if you'd like, particularly if you question whether there is a real willingness to make the commitment necessary for successful participation. You may also choose to talk to the candidate as needed to ensure that you provide sufficient information for a compelling nomination form. However, remember that this is a competitive process. Many strong candidates are nominated and therefore some wonderful leaders may not be invited in any given year. Nominations stay active for two years and a candidate may be invited the following year. Never promise or assure someone a place in the class. Your nomination form is the basis for acceptance; the candidate does not submit an application, so please provide sufficient information to enable a Committee member who does not know the nominee to fairly evaluate their candidacy. Please comment specifically on the selection criteria described on the attached sheet. **Incomplete nominations do a disservice to the nominee since they cannot be appropriately evaluated. You are strongly encouraged to submit a brief bio and/or resume along with each nomination.**

As each invitation is extended, we will notify the nominator to ask that you contact the candidate to encourage them to accept the invitation and to answer any questions they may have. We will copy you on invitations sent to any candidate that you put forward.

Your suggestions, questions and ideas are welcome. Please call or e-mail Dan Snare at 713-807-1253 or dan@alfhouston.org. We want our 2021 classes to reflect our ongoing tradition of excellence. The quality and breadth of your nominations will be the pivotal factors needed to guarantee the strength of these classes and thereby the strength and future of the American Leadership Forum's service to our community.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the American Leadership Forum.

Jo Ann Burbridge
Criminal Justice Class 5
Chair, Selection Committee