

Ingram Scholar Alumni Spotlight



STACY TOLOS KANE, Class of 2006

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DEGREES

B.S., Human and Organizational Development and Sociology, Vanderbilt University

Masters of Public Policy, Education Policy, Vanderbilt University

J.D., Emory University School of Law

CURRENT LOCATION

Washington, DC

CURRENT EMPLOYER

Washington Leadership Academy

CURRENT OCCUPATION

Co-Founder & Executive Director

DESCRIBE YOUR CAREER PATH

I knew I wanted to work on issues of educational equity and racial justice as my long term career plan. I first spent 5 years in the federal government during the Obama administration doing a variety of things. I began as a Presidential Management Fellow so I had the opportunity to rotate. I spent time in the Secretary's Office at the Dept of Homeland Security working on her campaign to end human trafficking. I then worked at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau while it started up. I finished up as Deputy Director of the Presidential Innovation Fellows program, an effort to bring the country's best tech and entrepreneurial talent into the federal government. After about 5 years, I was ready to leave the federal government. I met the co-founders of a new concept for a charter school. I ended up volunteering for it, then quitting my day job for it, and I continue to lead and run it now. I absolutely love my job. I get to engage with students every day AND I get to work on broader racial and educational equity policy issues in the District of Columbia and nationally.

HOW DID THE INGRAM SCHOLARS PROGRAM PREPARE YOU FOR WHAT YOU ARE DOING TODAY?

Everything! I did so many programs and projects and extracurriculars and traveled and had so many spectacular experiences from teaching in Ghana to working for Harry Reid in the Senate to running a college prep and mentoring program to meeting all kinds of mentors. It completely changed the trajectory of my life and prepared me to be the changemaker I am today.

IF YOU COULD DESCRIBE THE INGRAM SCHOLARS PROGRAM IN THREE WORDS WHAT WOULD THEY BE?

Launching world changers!

WHAT DOES THE INGRAM SCHOLAR COMMUNITY MEAN TO YOU?

Change agents throughout the world!

BEST INGRAM SCHOLAR MEMORY

That's impossible! But my favorite part of the program was building really close relationships with people that I never would have met or engaged with otherwise. People who didn't share my views but who I learned from and respected and grew from.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR CURRENT SCHOLARS WHO WANT TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR INGRAM SCHOLAR EXPERIENCE?

DO ALL THE THINGS! Go on all the trips! Meet all the people. Join all the programs. Take advantage of every single part of that amazing opportunity.