

# Fred Saigh Leadership Academy



## Creating Leadership Opportunities for Students

Leadership is defined as the action of leading a group of people or an organization and a great leader has the ability to inspire confidence in other people and move them to action. In 2004, the Special Education Foundation (SEF) established the Fred Saigh Leadership Academy, funded by a grant from the Fred Saigh Foundation. This annual training program introduces, develops, and fosters leadership skills in students with disabilities. The curriculum is designed to involve students in issues that face the community.

***“This program really made me realize that all of us have something to offer. Meeting so many community leaders who worked hard to become leaders gave me lots of inspiration.” ~ Paul F.***

# How It Works

- Each school year, teachers nominate high school aged students by completing a nomination form on the SEF website.
- The nominated student also completes an application to the Academy.
- Nominations and applications are reviewed and selected by an SEF committee, including members of the Board of Directors and key staff.

Up to 20 students are selected to participate in the Academy each year. For one day each month for 9 months, the students will meet key leaders while visiting vital locations in the metropolitan area, those that make our community vital and effective in meeting the needs of its citizens. Upon completion of the Fred Saigh Leadership Academy, students will be better equipped with skills needed to campaign for school offices, manage school projects and assume leadership positions. They will celebrate their completion with a graduation ceremony and participate in a video created to share with teachers in back to school orientations.

With the Special Education Foundation's Fred Saigh Leadership Academy, students come away with developed leadership skills that include team building, problem solving, character development and good citizenship. Site locations and current schedules can be found by visiting the Special Education Foundation website. Learn more about the Special Education Foundation and the Fred Saigh Leadership Academy.

