We’re looking for leaders, not test scores. Students who are involved. Students who love science and math, and foster an entrepreneurial spirit. We collectively call these attributes “fire in the belly.” Students with this type of drive are an ideal fit for the Self Engineering Leadership Fellows (SELF) Program. Our vision is to develop passionate future engineering leaders in business, industry, and entrepreneurship. Graduates from the SELF Program possess the personal attributes needed to become effective leaders who are motivated to make a real difference during their careers.

FELLOWS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MORE THAN $30,000 IN TUITION ASSISTANCE, PLUS OTHER KU GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

FELLOWS HAVE A 100% EMPLOYMENT RATE AT THE TIME OF GRADUATION

Dec. 1 INCOMING STUDENT APPLICATION DATE

7 PILLARS OF THE SELF PROGRAM

BUSINESS ACUMEN
COMMUNICATION SKILLS
ENGINEERING EXPERTISE
ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT
INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
MANAGEMENT SAVVY

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OPPORTUNITY AND OUTREACH

Enrichment through experiential learning is a key component of the SELF Program. This includes behind-the-scenes visits to places such as CERN in Switzerland (pictured on cover) to see the world’s largest and most powerful particle collider, as well as Google, SpaceX, Amazon, Microsoft, Boeing, ExxonMobil, and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab through the SELF on the Road experience.

Fellows coordinate and help with numerous events throughout campus. This includes the Engineering High School Design Competition, the School of Engineering’s largest on-campus outreach event; the SELF Service project, a fundraiser spearheaded by the second-year cohort for a selected charity; and the Make it Happen conference, an event to encourage middle school-aged girls to pursue a career in the STEM fields.

The Fellows bring innovative ideas to KU and the School of Engineering and interact with business and industry executives in small, personalized gatherings. This includes Alan Mulally, former CEO of Ford Motor Company; Brian McClendon, co-creator of Google Earth; and Jose Garcia-Aranda, president of Alberici Global Automotive Constructors.

GROWING AS LEADERS

Through a combination of classroom and hands-on learning, Fellows have numerous opportunities to develop and polish the skills central to the SELF Program and its seven pillars. Fellows attend weekly cohort meetings that include exploration of leadership models and characteristics.

Fellows can apply and strengthen these leadership characteristics through larger collaborative and individual projects, including the capstone experience, which Fellows typically implement as upperclassmen. Over the four years of the program, Fellows reflect on and refine their leadership styles through lectures and interactive presentations while participating in business and technology case studies and attending skill workshops.

Support and feedback are important to the learning process. Throughout their leadership journey, Fellows are guided and coached by mentors, advisors, other SELF Fellows and even SELF alumni.

This fully immersive program results in well-rounded students who leave campus with the personal attributes needed to become effective leaders motivated to make a real difference during their careers.

PROGRAM HISTORY

The Self Engineering Leadership Fellows Program was established in 2007 as the result of a contribution to the KU Endowment Association from Madison “Al” and Lila Self, who both passed away in 2013. The Selfs’ intention for the program is to identify and develop students who have a passion for engineering and possess a “fire in the belly” mentality.

The Program graduated its first class of Fellows in 2011. Currently, the SELF Program has four cohorts of undergraduate students, totaling about 130 Fellows. Three staff members help guide the Fellows during their experience in the program.