

Graduation Quotes

Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs – Class of 2008

Coro--with its scope, its breadth and depth--provided me the expanse needed to uncover the adaptable intellectual capacity of my mind, to participate and grapple with the complicated interplay between individual needs and group process, and to analyze the intricate inter-connectedness between sectors.

-Raema Quam

Fortunately this Coro Experience cannot be summed in a couple sentences. The insight to different sectors, lifelong friends, and a wealth of allies willing to help you grow as a civic leader are just some of the things Coro has provided me. Thank you for the lifelong skills.

-Nadir Vissanjy

Finding the courage to take risks, especially when feeling fear and doubt, is the key to making change, personally and in the world. Sometimes the most daunting risk is to dream without judgment and worry of what others will think, and to believe in my ability to make that dream a reality.

- Ariana Proehl

I divide Coro into two experiences: one is the interpretative lens Coro provides the Fellows as they are exposed to leaders and systems of society previously unknown. The other is the group experience, where Fellows experience the complexity of self-governance and of group interaction. These complimentary components have guided me to become a more effective and impactful leader.

-Zach Blume

Coro's greatest gift to me was the 11 other fellows who have been key in helping me to discover my strengths and weaknesses. Through their encouragement, I am emboldened to take more risks in the future and to continually reinvent myself and my leadership style.

-Craig Ishihara

This year was a product of our own invention and of my own ingenuity. I roamed free in my own thoughts and experiences, veraciously questioning, reflecting and challenging. Now at the end, I look back with pride but also with a sense in incompleteness; for now I understand that I have only laid the foundation for my ongoing journey of personal development.

-Alea Gage

I came into Coro expecting to be challenged and a promise that I will give my heart and my mind. I leave today with a bigger challenge: to use the capital I gained and the faith entrusted in me to continue to push the envelope, to be a bold and compassionate leader.

- Tuan Ngo

With each placement, focus week, and interview my brain was pushed to bend, flex, and function in ways I never knew were possible. I leave my Coro experience with an enhanced lens to view the world through and an arsenal of tools to interpret it with.

- Diana Medina

Much has been written about the emerging Millennial Generation. Experts characterize the members of this generation as adaptive, civically-minded individuals, keen to invent new methods for solving society's problems. If my exposure to the 11 other Industrious Fellows in this program is any indication, this generation will indeed create a new society from the ground up.

- Geoff Willard

Hemingway was challenged to write a story in six words, Minden gave me fifty: Burlingame, Ray Roeder, Bay Area, Pharmacoeconomics, privilege, Firemen, Sosnaud, training room, Minden Fox, seminar, coffee, race, feedback, Tools, sustainability, Religion, Coro, stipend, diversity, philanthropy, leadership, logic-study, 12-headed monster, gender, WOA, coro08@googlegroups.com, accountability, sectors, public affairs, Fellows

-Caroline Mullen

The framing of conflicts as manifestations of 'good versus evil' is one of the greatest barriers to eliminating the crucial misunderstandings that threaten to eliminate us. We can find hope in the times that we overcome our own entrenched position, accept a new perspective and create change within ourselves.

-Lucas Botello

Coro has fundamentally transformed my understanding of humanity. I no longer evaluate my experiences through absolutes - good or bad, right or wrong, true or false. Now, I believe these words only represent an oversimplification of the complex set of interactions, theories, and structures that create the human experience.

-Kirstin I. Conti