

# WEST POINT HUMANITIES CENTER



West Point  
**READY** 

READY TO SERVE. READY TO LEAD.



*“From its origins as an engineering school, the United States Military Academy has evolved over two centuries to be a very special sort of liberal arts college, one that recognizes that many of the most significant lessons for the leadership it must foster emerge from the study of humanity.”*

— Drew Gilpin Faust, historian, Arthur Kingsley Porter University Professor, and President Emerita, Harvard University, excerpted from acceptance remarks 2018 John W. Kluge Prize for Achievement in the Study of Humanity



## HUMAN ENDEAVOR OF WARFARE

The West Point Humanities Center (WPHC) is dedicated to the principle that the human dimension lies at the core of both the Army's identity and war itself. In a 21st-century world of technology and geopolitical complexity, one truth endures: war remains a human endeavor. In order to prepare graduates for the near-term crucible of ground combat as well as for a future full of strategic challenges, West Point must equip them with a thorough understanding of war's human dimension. The WPHC will provide the academic depth and commitment to help the Academy do precisely this for the long term. The center will harness the vitality of the humanities (English, foreign languages, philosophy, history, law, art history, music, and geography), disciplines that seek to understand and encourage innovative research at a time when the methods and modes of making war continue to multiply. The center will provide a home for fellowship and research programs focused on a series of themes linking the humanities with the social sciences and STEM disciplines in service of the national good.

## WHY A HUMANITIES CENTER AT WEST POINT

As West Point looks to the future, our educational programs and facilities are expanding to encompass new ways of looking at the world: cyber, biotechnology, autonomous systems, quantum computing, to name only a few. It is critical to invest equally in initiatives that explore the human impact of cutting-edge technologies on the battlefield and society, in war and peace. History is replete with examples of the destructive application of technologies without due consideration of their ethical, cultural, and social, and political consequences. A commitment to the balanced strategic growth of West Point's academic programs and facilities will ensure that we educate and inspire graduates who understand the contexts as well as the technologies themselves. Dedicated to the study of those contexts, the center will expand West Point's capability and sustain its relevance for internal as well as external audiences. The WPHC will enhance the academic program's depth, rigor, and potential for creative interdisciplinary collaboration.

Like its analogues at near-peer institutions, the WPHC will pursue excellence in interdisciplinary research through two-year themes inviting participation from all disciplines. Themes will serve as the link between the core humanities disciplines and STEM and the social sciences. Broad, dynamic themes will integrate the work of cadets, faculty, and visiting experts, with the goal of enriching the Academy and the Academy's understanding of crucial ethical, leadership, and national-security challenges.

## PROGRAMS

WPHC programs will energize humanities and interdisciplinary research at West Point and beyond by providing a hub for cadet and faculty collaboration. The programs will strengthen West Point's partnerships with the Army and institutions of higher education. High-impact research and robust public engagement will demonstrate to the public and to our stakeholders the vitality and importance of West Point's broad liberal arts education to understanding the human dimension of warfare. A Humanities Center is essential if West Point is to keep pace and achieve excellence. There will be four component programs organized around a theme, designed to facilitate interdisciplinary investigation. Examples include "the city," "borders," "trust," and "intelligence." The theme will refresh every two years in response to the evolving strategic landscape.

*“The most distinguishing characteristic of the land domain [of war] is the human element.” Army Doctrinal Publication 1, The Army, July 2019*

— General Douglas MacArthur, Superintendent Annual Report, 1920

## FELLOWSHIPS

### *Cadet Fellowships*

Every two years, the WPHC will select six cadet fellows through a competitive application process. Applicants, rising second-class cadets, will submit research proposals connected to the center's chosen theme. These cadet fellows will meet monthly with USMA faculty and visiting experts to conduct research and participate in interdisciplinary conversations. They will receive the benefit of faculty mentorship and educational enrichment at colloquia, trips to New York City and area institutions to take advantage of educational and cultural resources, and speakers and conferences hosted by the center. Each year, they will present their research on Projects Day or as part of an end-of-year conference at the center.

### *Faculty Fellowships*

Every two years, the WPHC will select three West Point faculty fellows through a competitive application process. Faculty applicants, two junior and one senior, will submit research proposals connected to the center's chosen theme. At least two faculty members will come from the humanities disciplines. Faculty fellows, appointed for two years, participate in collaborative research programs and discussions with the community of fellows. Each faculty fellow will receive an annual research stipend of \$1,000.

### *Postdoctoral Fellows*

Every two years, the WPHC will initiate a nationwide search process to appoint two postdoctoral fellows. Each resident postdoctoral position will come with a \$65,000 stipend. Fellows will teach in their discipline and participate in workshops, research activities, and discussions with the community of fellows. They will also present their research to West Point and New York City audiences.

### *Non-resident Senior Fellow*

Every two years, the WPHC will conduct a nationwide search for one non-resident senior fellow. The Senior Fellow, who will have a distinguished record as a researcher and an educator, will consult with center leadership and with the community of fellows. The Senior Fellow will be affiliated with a USMA course, participate in WPHC activities and conferences, and deliver annual public lectures to the West Point community. The Senior Fellow will receive a \$10,000 stipend.

Fellows directly benefit West Point and the Army and Nation through the eventual products of their research and their immediate contributions to our learning community. The postdoctoral and non-resident fellows will bring exciting expertise into West Point's academic program to enrich cadet education and will establish new and lasting links between the Academy and leading institutions of higher learning. The "West Point Humanities Fellow" designation will come to be recognized as a prestigious addition to an academic career, an opportunity for external fellows to contribute to the Army and for internal fellows to make an impact beyond the institution. Examples of successful humanities fellowship programs at Princeton, Stanford, Harvard, and elsewhere demonstrate that we can enrich the West Point learning community by attracting the highest quality external fellows. The experience of being a West Point Humanities Fellow will stay with these scholars, making them ambassadors for our programs and bridging the civil-military divide.



War has always been and remains a human endeavor. Unique among the services, the Army remains focused on the human dimensions of warfare. History is replete with examples of what happens when we ignore the human element of technological change.



Photo: Lee Ross '73

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**Humanities Center Program Endowment ..... \$5.6 million**

Cadet Fellows .....	\$2 million endowment/\$80,000 annual
Guest Speaker .....	\$500,000 endowment/\$20,000 annual
Workshops & Conferences .....	\$500,000 endowment/\$20,000 annual
AIADs .....	\$500,000 endowment/\$20,000 annual
Cadet Research Initiatives .....	\$625,000 endowment/\$25,000 annual
Center Director Suite Naming .....	\$1 million
Senior Fellows Naming .....	\$1 million
Faculty Fellow Naming .....	\$1 million
Post-Doctoral Fellow Naming .....	\$1 million

MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE



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