

# Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute taps 2005 Fellows

*Chapel Hill Town Councilman Mark Kleinschmidt among civic leaders chosen to attend Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School*

by Dave DeCicco

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute, the only national organization solely committed to the leadership and professional development of the nation's LGBT public, private and not-for-profit leaders, announced the selection of seven Leadership Institute Fellows in the summer 2005 classes at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Senior Executives in State and Local Government program. The Fellows are recognized for their commitment to and accomplishments in the pursuit of establishing equal access to the American dream for LGBT citizens.

Among those chosen is Chapel Hill's openly gay town councilmember Mark Kleinschmidt. Kleinschmidt recently announced that he plans to run again for his town council seat in the next election. He's also well known for his work as an attorney with the Center for Death Penalty Litigation.

"The fellows we are sponsoring are a part of the most talented and motivated individuals entering the world of public service today," said Chuck Wolfe, president and CEO of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Leadership Institute. "This educational opportunity will serve to amplify their talents and bring the day closer when all LGBT citizens are provided the equal rights to which they are entitled as American citizens."

At press time fellows are attending an intensive, three-week course, which began July 10 and ends July 29. The program is designed to enhance leadership skills, develop new management techniques and cultivate relationships among public sector colleagues.

The following is a list of the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute Fellows in the 2005 class:

- Mark Kleinschmidt, town council member, Town of Chapel Hill, N.C.
- Michael Fleming, executive director, David Bohnett Foundation



Openly gay Chapel Hill town council member Mark Kleinschmidt was chosen to attend Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School for a three-week gay and lesbian leadership program.

- James McKissic, public education programs manager, Urban League of Greater Chattanooga
- Mario Acosta-Velez, human rights commissioner, D.C. Commission on Human Rights
- John Brady, recorder of deeds, Sussex County Government, Del.
- Stephen Glassman, chairperson, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
- Annise Parker, city controller, City of Houston

The Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute has collaborated directly with Harvard since 2001 to offer senior executives in state and local government programs for leaders in the LGBT community. The Leadership Institute provides partial and full scholarships to meet the costs of the program to LGBT individuals who have been accepted by Harvard and require some financial assistance.

The program curriculum focuses on political management, policy analysis, performance management, negotiations and strategic management. Harvard University's Kennedy School selects the participants, who represent all areas of public-sector management, public works, health, public safety, housing, budget and administration.

Joseph G. Jemsek, M.D.  
J. Wesley Thompson, P.A.-C.  
Christine F. Roeske, F.N.P.

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