CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND RSVP’s:

TAKE POINT UNIVERSITY 2016
at the UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Foreign Policy Skills Training, Pitch Competition, and Micro-Grants
Exclusively for Student Veterans

April 1, 2016, 9:00am-3:00pm

Deadline to Apply to TPU Challenge: **March 13, 2016**
Deadline to RSVP for full-day TPU Program*: **March 18, 2016**
*This includes a reserved seat to watch the TPU CHALLENGE competition

The Atlantic Council and the University of Southern California (USC) are seeking applications and RSVP’s for both the 2016 Take Point University (TPU) PROGRAM and TPU CHALLENGE in Los Angeles, California. TPU is a launch pad for student veterans aspiring to become foreign policy thought leaders and opinion shapers. TPU offers a unique public platform where participants can distinguish themselves as intellectual entrepreneurs and secure $2,500 or more to support internships in the foreign policy sector and original project ideas with a nexus to international relations while also benefiting from professional skills training, enhancing their networks, and engaging with senior leaders.

Applications for the TPU CHALLENGE 2016 are due March 13, 2016. Please apply at: [https://form.jotform.com/60114799403960](https://form.jotform.com/60114799403960) or at [www.takepointx.org](http://www.takepointx.org) under Take Point University.

RSVPs for the full-day TPU PROGRAM (including special workshops with senior leaders, including an off-the-record fireside chat with General (ret.) David H. Petraeus) are due March 18, 2016. These workshops are open only to participating student veterans and available on a first come first served basis – please RSVP as soon as possible to reserve your spot. Please RSVP for the full day program at: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/take-point-university-at-usc-veterans-engaging-the-world-full-day-program-tickets-22432852265](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/take-point-university-at-usc-veterans-engaging-the-world-full-day-program-tickets-22432852265)

TPU is an extension of the Atlantic Council's Take Point Initiative ([www.takepointx.org](http://www.takepointx.org)). Through service, young veterans develop invaluable on-the-ground insights about the challenges America faces abroad and a first-hand understanding of how US foreign policy translates to the real world. These insights are essential to formulating effective policy going forward, yet young veterans are largely underrepresented in the think tanks and academic institutions which influence policy and policy makers in Washington, DC. Launched in 2014 and chaired by former Secretary of Defense Charles Hagel, Take Point gives post-9/11 veterans a voice in these arenas by supporting young veterans interested in pursuing careers as thought leaders and intellectual entrepreneurs in international affairs with training, publicity, networks, and funding.
TPU PROGRAM at USC (Full-Day Program): Veterans Engaging the World

The 2016 TPU Los Angeles program will take place on April 1, 2016 and consists of a full-day, from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. This event will include training, networking, senior speakers, and the TPU CHALLENGE competition – a public pitch competition with a minimum prize of $2,500. The program offers the following opportunities:

RSVP for participation in the full-day TPU PROGRAM, Veterans Engaging the World: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/take-point-university-at-usc-veterans-engaging-the-world-full-day-program-tickets-22432852265
(this includes a reserved seat to watch the TPU CHALLENGE)

1. **TPU CHALLENGE**
   - **Make the case for your internship or project idea** during a public, TED-Talk style event. A panel of expert judges will award a minimum of $2,500 to support one or more presenters’ work. **Only the top 3-5 project proposals submitted for review before March 13 will be invited to pitch during the event** (more details in “TPU CHALLENGE: Competition Details” section below). This session is open anyone that RSVPs to the TPU PROGRAM.

2. **TPU PROGRAM**
   - **Participate in exclusive hands-on professional training workshops** focused on functional, resume-ready skills relevant to the nonprofit and foreign policy sectors such as communications, public speaking, advocacy, and negotiation – TPU Los Angeles will feature an interactive panel discussion with senior foreign policy practitioners focused on how to build a career in different sub-sectors of the foreign policy field. The career path workshop is open only to student veterans. This session is open to anyone that RSVPs to the TPU PROGRAM.

   - **Engage with senior foreign policy leaders** and high-profile experts. In 2015, Take Point participants met with former Secretary of Defense Charles Hagel, Atlantic Council Chairman Governor Jon Huntsman, and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, among others. **TPU Los Angeles will feature an off-the-record fireside chat with General (ret.) David H. Petraeus.** This session is open to anyone that RSVPs to the TPU PROGRAM.

   - **Network with experts**, potential employers, and other student veterans in foreign affairs. This session is open to anyone that RSVPs to the TPU PROGRAM.

**TPU CHALLENGE: Competition Details**

Hosted at USC, The TPU Challenge is a vehicle for supporting student veterans with funding to pursue internships in foreign policy or original projects. The event uses a public Ted-Talk style format during which 3-5 student veterans will “pitch” their projects or internships to judges in front of a live audience. Judges will then award a minimum of $2,500 to support one or more presenters. To be considered for the TPU Challenge, you must submit your proposal via the online application (link below) no later than March 13.

**Online Application for TPU CHALLENGE:** https://form.jotform.com/60114799403960

**Proposal Goals:** Candidates should submit proposals for foreign policy internships or projects that they intend to complete by the end of 2016 that advance one or more of the following goals:
a. Advance the presenter’s professional development and career as a foreign policy leader;
b. Raise the profile of student veterans in foreign policy and drive a healthy dialogue around post-9/11 veterans as thought leaders in international affairs;
c. Inject new ideas into the international and national security discourse; and
d. Engage more veterans in foreign policy, especially those outside the policy community.

Proposal Eligibility: Proposals may include internships in the foreign policy sector which the applicant has already secured or has been offered, or original projects. Projects may include startups, nonprofits, events, media outputs, research, novels, blogs, or any other policy-focused endeavor, provided the content has a nexus to international affairs. Expansions or continuations of existing projects, including those proposed in partnership with universities, professors, or other existing entities, are welcome. Projects seeking support for political or religious purposes will be deemed ineligible.

Evaluation Criteria – Projects and internships will be evaluated by foreign policy practitioners, academics, and experts during the initial review and by challenge judges based on:

1. Professional development for the applicant (i.e. does this advance their foreign affairs career);
2. Relevance to foreign policy, international relations, and/or national security;
3. Potential impact on the international security discourse;
4. Creativity and innovation;
5. Feasibility within the proposed budget and timeline; and
6. Personal narrative of the presenter(s).

Prize Funds – Awarded to pitch competition winners, micro-grants of $2,500 or more may be used to support housing or travel for recipients during their internship as well as costs directly related to the project outputs such as subscription or book fees for research, event expenses, web hosting, labor, or any other direct expense provided the usage is reasonable and related to the project or internship.

How to Apply for TPU CHALLENGE Competition: Participant Eligibility and Deadline
To participate in TPU CHALLENGE competition, you must apply no later than March 13, 2016 through the following link: https://form.jotform.com/60114799403960. All TPU Challenge applicants will automatically be RSVP’d for the professional training workshops, engagement sessions with senior speakers, and networking opportunities, however, only the top 3-5 project submissions will be invited to present during the event.

How to RSVP for full-day TPU PROGRAM: Special Workshops for Student Veterans
For student veterans who wish to participate in the TPU PROGRAM workshops, but not compete in the TPU CHALLENGE pitch competition, please RSVP through the following link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/take-point-university-at-usc-veterans-engaging-the-world-full-day-program-tickets-22432852265. All student veteran participants in the TPU PROGRAM workshops are expected to attend the TPU CHALLENGE competition as audience members.

Participant Eligibility: We are seeking a diverse group of fellows with a range of personal and professional backgrounds and service histories, including both former officers and enlisted personnel.

TPU is open to any and all interested student veterans aged thirty-five and under, including those attending two-year or community colleges, undergraduates at four year institutions, and graduate students. TPU in Los Angeles is not limited to student veterans at USC. Eligible applicants must be:

• A Veteran of any branch of the United States military
• Aged 35 or under
• Enrolled at an institution of higher learning, including, but not limited to, community college, undergraduate university or college, or graduate school
• A US Citizen with the ability to travel to participate in the event at USC (travel costs not covered)
Contact/For More Information: For additional information, questions, comments, please contact either of the following:

- Daniel Bennett, Associate Director, Atlantic Council, dbennett@atlanticcouncil.org
- Shahla Fatemi, ROTC & Military Affairs Liaison, University of Southern California, shahlafa@usc.edu

About the Organizers and Sponsors

Atlantic Council: Founded in 1961, The Atlantic Council (www.atlanticcouncil.org) promotes constructive leadership and engagement in international affairs based on the Atlantic Community’s central role in meeting global challenges. Through the papers we write, the ideas we generate, and the communities we build, the Council shapes policy choices and strategies to create a more secure and prosperous world. Take Point is inspired in part by the stories of Council leaders – including former Chairmen Secretary Chuck Hagel, General James Jones, and General Brent Scowcroft – and numerous veterans on our board whose military service helped shape their policy views and prepare them for leadership.

University of Southern California: Founded in 1880, the University of Southern California is one of the world’s leading private research universities. An anchor institution in Los Angeles, a global center for arts, technology and international business, USC’s diverse curricular offerings provide extensive opportunities for interdisciplinary study, and collaboration with leading researchers in highly advanced learning environments. With a strong tradition of integrating liberal and professional education, USC fosters a vibrant culture of public service and encourages students to cross academic as well as geographic boundaries in their pursuit of knowledge.

Bob Woodruff Foundation: The Atlantic Council is proud to have support for the Take Point Initiative from the Bob Woodruff Foundation (BWF). BWF works to ensure injured veterans and their families are thriving long after they return home. The team at BWF navigates the maze of over 40,000 nonprofit organizations to find and fund innovative programs in communities where veterans, their families and caregivers live and work. As a grant recipient, the Council joins the Bob Woodruff Foundation grantee network, a collaboration of top-tier programs and advocates working to help our heroes on the home front. You can learn more about the Bob Woodruff Foundation at bobwoodrufffoundation.org. We encourage you to follow @Stand4Heroes on Twitter and Facebook at www.facebook.com/Stand4Heroes.

Thank you to our sponsor:

Bob Woodruff Foundation