

A LESSON IN LEADERSHIP

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ROBERT GATES, CENTER, SURROUNDED BY TRI-C MANDEL SCHOLARS AND COLLEGE AND COMMUNITY LEADERS

FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT GATES VISITED WITH THE COLLEGE'S MANDEL SCHOLARS BEFORE TAKING THE STAGE AT THE TRI-C FOUNDATION'S PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEON

Robert Gates offered guidance and direct advice to eight U.S. presidents during a storied career of public service spanning five decades of American history

In November, he did the same for students at Cuyahoga Community College.

The former U.S. secretary of defense met with aspiring leaders from the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Scholars Academy during his visit to Cleveland for the Tri-C Foundation's Presidential Scholarship Luncheon.

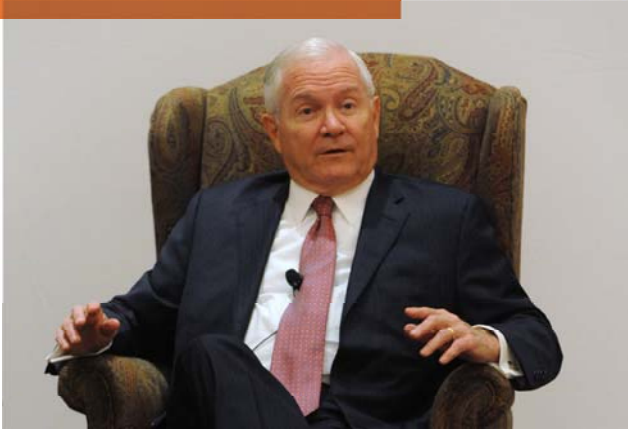
Gates served as keynote speaker at the luncheon, where he added to his legacy of leadership by helping raise \$1.3 million for scholarships.

He spoke with the Mandel Scholars before the event in the no-nonsense style that defined his tenure at the highest levels of government. The conversation touched on leadership, the power of education and serving as role models.



ZOE DAY, A MANDEL SCHOLAR MAJORING IN SOCIAL WORK, ASKED GATES FOR ADVICE ON TAKING LEADERSHIP ROLES IN GOVERNMENT

A half-dozen students asked Gates questions, just as Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama did while he oversaw the nation's military as secretary of defense.



GATES TOLD TRI-C'S MANDEL SCHOLARS THAT LISTENING IS "CRITICALLY IMPORTANT" FOR LEADERS

Gates encouraged the students to push toward excellence while also offering a harsh reality.

"YOU HAVE TO DO ALL THE HARD WORK AND PREPARATION WITHOUT ANY GUARANTEES OF WHAT'S GOING TO COME OUT AT THE OTHER END."

Harry Quinones, one of the Mandel Scholars, nodded as Gates talked. The 19-year-old from Garfield Heights said he found inspiration in the words as he works toward his Associate of Arts degree.

"It's hard to be a college student," said Quinones, who hopes to graduate from Tri-C. "Sometimes, you just want to close that book. But you have to keep going."

Gates' career shows the potential of perseverance.

He joined the Central Intelligence Agency in 1966 after being recruited out of college and spent nearly 27 years as an intelligence official. He became director of the CIA in 1991, becoming the only officer to rise from entry-level employee to the head of the agency.

He served as secretary of defense from 2006 to 2011 under Presidents Bush and Obama. He is the only secretary of defense in the nation's history asked to remain in office by a newly elected president.

Obama awarded Gates the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, on his last day serving in the capitol.

Foundation President Megan O'Bryan said Gates offered students a glimpse at what is possible.

"OUR MANDEL SCHOLARS ARE ASPIRING LEADERS WHO AIM TO MAKE THE IMPACT OF A ROBERT GATES. HIS INSPIRING WORDS MAY HELP LAUNCH THE CAREER OF ANOTHER GREAT PUBLIC SERVANT."

Gates returned his focus to higher education after leaving Washington. He currently is chancellor of William & Mary, his alma mater in Williamsburg, Virginia. He was president of Texas A&M University from 2002 to 2006.

He opened his remarks at the Presidential Scholarship Luncheon — which the Mandel Scholars also attended — by stressing the importance of scholarships. Gates also commended Tri-C for its work with veterans.

Since its inception in 1992, the Foundation's Presidential Scholarship Luncheon has raised more than \$19 million for Tri-C students.



MATTHEW JORDAN (LEFT), DEAN AND CHAIR OF HUMANITIES AT THE JACK, JOSEPH AND MORTON MANDEL HUMANITIES CENTER, MODERATED THE DISCUSSION BETWEEN GATES AND THE STUDENTS