McDermott Scholars Program Staff

Reena Schellenberg
Director
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Reena has been involved with the Eugene McDermott Scholars Program since its inception and was a selection committee member for every class of Scholars since 2004. A member of the provost's team since 2004, she has worked on projects ranging from strategic planning to the first-year student experience. Reena worked closely with the Scholars Program from 2007 until 2014, when she was charged with creating the Eugene McDermott Graduate Fellows Program. Since the fall of 2017, Reena has led both the Scholars Program and the Fellows Program.

Prior to joining UTD, Reena held positions in the arts, business, nonprofit, and education sectors.

She holds degrees from Queen's University (Canada) and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she was a Morehead-Cain Scholar and North Carolina Fellow.

Point of contact for: giving, university and public relations, program questions

Sherry Marek
Assistant Director
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A McDermott Program staff member since the program's creation in 2000, Sherry has played a continuously central role in the program and has been its assistant director since 2008. As an undergraduate she was named a McDermott Foundation Scholar at UT Dallas, earning a B.A. in Economics and an M.B.A. She co-founded the national Undergraduate Scholars Program Administrators Association and served on its board for six years.
Kimberly Flicker
Assistant Director
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Kim joined the UT Dallas family in 2007 when she moved to Texas from Illinois. Prior to joining the program in 2009, she was the laboratory and research manager of the Productive Aging Lab at UT Dallas' Center for Brain Health. Kim graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a B.S. in integrative biology and earned both an M.B.A. and M.S. in healthcare management from UT Dallas.

Point of contact for: alumni, end of semester reports, Scholar's accomplishments

Eric Fackler
Program Specialist
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Eric worked in telecommunications before entering academia in 2007. He joined the Program in 2011 after moving with his family from New York City and has nearly nine years of higher education experience. Eric graduated from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York with a B.A. in history and he is currently pursuing an M.A. in the same field at UT Dallas.

Point of contact for: study abroad, research and internships, professional development funding, housing
Dominic Kollasch
Program Specialist
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Dominic began his time with the program in 2015, ten years after he first visited and fell in love with the McDermott Program as a high school counselor. Dominic moved to Texas from New Mexico the same year he started with the program, bringing 14 years of counseling experience, seven of which were as the Counseling Department Chair at St. Pius X High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Dominic earned a B.Mus. from Oklahoma City University and a M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute in Carpinteria, California.

Point of contact for: first year McDermott Scholars, cohort trips, Leadership Dallas, counselor inquiries

Mashal Noor
Social Media Specialist
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Mashal started working with the McDermott Program as the Social Media Specialist in 2016. However, Mashal's journey with the McDermott Program began when she was selected as a member of the 2012 class of McDermott Scholars. Mashal graduated in May 2016 with a BA in Emerging Media and Communication and a minor in Political Science. While completing her bachelor's degree, Mashal was awarded the Archer Fellowship and spent a semester in Washington D.C. working at the White House in the Office of Digital Strategy.

Mashal is currently pursuing an M.S. in Applied Cognition and Neuroscience at UT Dallas.

Point of contact for: social media accounts, website information, application questions, general information, setting up campus visits, arts and culture, and Scholars' birthdays