

Morton Blackwell, President of the Leadership Institute
Honorary Master of Arts in Government
Bestowed by Richard Bishirjian, President of Yorktown University

Regional Meeting of The Philadelphia Society
Indianapolis, Indiana
October 23, 2009



Morton Blackwell, President of the Leadership Institute, received an Honorary Master of Arts in Government from Yorktown University. Richard Bishirjian, President of Yorktown University conferred the degree on Friday evening, October 23, at the Regional Meeting of the Philadelphia Society in Indianapolis, Indiana. The citation is below.

Morton Blackwell is a founder. A founder is not an inheritor, but a person whose insight, knowledge and skill is used to create something entirely new. In 1960 Morton Blackwell began to identify and train bright young conservatives for civic action. In contrast to the New Left that took to the streets to protest and riot, Morton Blackwell's actions were instrumental in integrating growing numbers of young conservatives into the American political process. Out of that initial effort sprang The Leadership Institute, one of the most successful educational organizations formed in the aftermath of the collapse of the Republican Party in the wake of the post-Watergate elections that ushered in a Congress dominated by radical liberal politicians.

Morton Blackwell's intense interest and concern for limited government, the basic freedoms of American people and the American political process was visible in his election as the youngest Delegate to the Republican national convention in 1964 as a delegate for Senator Barry Goldwater's nomination to run for President against President Lyndon B. Johnson. Morton Blackwell later served as the state chairman of the Louisiana College Republicans and Louisiana Young Republicans and in 1965 Morton Blackwell became executive director of the College Republicans.

Young people were largely ignored by politicians in the 1960s, but Morton Blackwell knew that something was astir in the hearts and minds of young people throughout America during that turbulent decade. In 1967 Morton Blackwell created the nation's first mass-based youth effort in conjunction with the Louie Nunn gubernatorial campaign of that year. And in 1980 he organized the national youth effort for Ronald Reagan, going on to serve on President Reagan's White House Staff.

In 1984, Morton Blackwell left the White House to work full-time as the President of the Leadership Institute, the educational foundation he founded to train and place conservatives in positions where they could work to protect the freedom of all Americans from an intrusive, predatory and costly administrative state.

Though Morton Blackwell's accomplishments are written in the many offices, boards and causes with which he is associated, his real influence is found in the more than 9,200 young adults and aspiring politicians that have participated in The Leadership Institute's training schools and more than 1,100 independent conservative student groups and campus publications in colleges and universities throughout the United States.