

2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR AND A CALL TO ACTION **by Staff**

Dear Kaplan Leadership Program Scholars and Alumni,

First, I wish everyone a happy start to the New Year. We hope that this year brings you good health, deeper connections with your family and friends, and successes in your academic and professional careers.

With this new year, it is important to take a moment to reflect on the current state of the world and why, now more than ever, all of you must become trailblazers in your respective careers.

We started the new year with the highest recorded COVID-19 cases thus far. It is with this information that we decided to keep our programming virtual for the remainder of the 2021 - 2022 program year.

This month also marks the first anniversary of the insurrection at our nation's capital. And most recently, Congress failed to pass federal voting rights during the week of Dr. Martin Luther King Day.

I do not point this out to you for the sake of pointing it out. But to ask each of you, what are you going to do about it?

Last year, for the first time, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance classified the United States as a "backsliding democracy". Meaning that it can be measured that we are losing our civil liberties.

As Kaplan Leadership Program scholars and alumni, we believe that the answer to this crisis lies within you, in your education, and the marks you are going to leave within your career fields. So whether you are in the midst of the college transfer process, a current student at your four-year school or currently working as a doctor, an accountant, a non-profit leader, or a media liaison, I ask you, how are you going to use your current position to bring back our civil liberties?