Laura Day is the founding Director of the Institute for Social Impact at The Hockaday School where she investigates the intersection of community engagement and problem solving throughout North Dallas. Working with students of all ages, Laura inspires future leaders to build empathy in their environments, develop leadership and advocacy skills, and design solutions to address real world problems.

A native Texan, Laura’s commitment to strengthening communities began in the Bronx with the Urban Justice Center's program that required that she live in intentional poverty before creating policy solutions to impact the marginalized communities she served. This led to her work in community organizing at Mothers on the Move, a Bronx-based advocacy organization for people living in public housing.

A move to Massachusetts shifted Laura’s focus to classroom teaching and inspired her to create a non-profit to address academic gains for low income students. In addition, she created a documentary on race relations in civil rights towns.

Returning to Dallas, Laura has been at The Hockaday School since 2009 as Director of The Dr. William B. Dean Service Learning Program. Under her leadership, The Hockaday School’s community engagement strategy has shifted to integrate girls of all ages into the community, by incorporating service themes into grade levels PK-12, including sending 350 student tutors to eight DISD elementary campuses each week, creating student-led initiatives that are fueled by community partnerships. Believing that students have the power and creativity to be a positive voice for change, Laura created a curriculum that uses design thinking to address current issues impacting schools, and the environment. These programs bridges public, private, and charter school communities and develop a generation of future leaders for the North Dallas community.

Laura has served on the Board of Facing History and Ourselves, volunteers at Reading Partners and Habitat for Humanity, is a LeadershipISD Fellow, and is currently a Board Member at United to Learn. In addition, she serves as the Director of United to Lead, a fellowship program for public, private, and charter high school students.