



WSSU LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other."
(John F. Kennedy)

▪ **MISSION AND PURPOSE**

The Winston-Salem State University Leadership Institute (LI) was started in 2001 as an opportunity for providing leadership development and enhancement for university students. The original objective was to select a group of highly talented students, conduct a leadership conference for training and enrichment, and encourage the integration of the training into various aspects of their collegiate experience. This initial goal was very successful in the first few years. However, with the continued growth of the University, it was felt that the Leadership Institute should expand its activities to reach a greater number of students.

The growth and ongoing advancement of the Leadership Institute have been major focal points of strategic planning since 2003. The LI Planning Committee, consisting of administrators, deans, faculty, staff, and students, proposed a year-round program. This "new" program would include a lecture series and a travel series, both raising the level of student engagement and satisfaction, and encouraging academic leadership to strengthen students' academic career.

In 2005, the Leadership Institute moved to WSSU's School of Business and Economics, and a permanent director was hired. In 2006, the LI relocated from the School of Business and Economics. The purpose was to move from an academic department so that the Leadership Institute would have an interdisciplinary appeal. This restructuring would also lend itself to more collaborative efforts with various academic departments and non-academic units. Although the LI has changed locations and directors, it will continue to ensure a dedication to lifelong learning, ethical responsibility, leadership development, personal integrity, and social action. Serving more 120 students from various disciplines and classifications, the LI is an outlet for stimulating professional and educational development as well as cultural and social activities.

The Leadership Institute recognizes that much of our students' education occurs beyond the walls of the classroom. Their ideas are shaped by their experiences. With this in mind, we encourage our students to participate in an array of travel, educational, professional, social and cultural activities. Several program features and activities are designed to ensure that this goal is met:

- Lecture Series
- Travel Series
- Annual Leadership Retreat
- Triad Leadership Academy
- Forum Luncheons

As evident, the Leadership Institute ensures that scholars have many opportunities for professional development. More specifically, the Leadership Institute aims to be an ongoing, intensive program designed to help students be competent leaders on campus, in the workplace and in the community. Through the aforementioned programs and others, the LI allows student leaders to develop their leadership skills and apply leadership principles to their respective careers.

Each spring, the Leadership Institute recognizes those students whose leadership potential and skills distinguish them from their peers. As such, the LI plans to admit a new “class” of student leaders each spring. Admission into the LI is based on faculty/staff recommendations, personal interviews, GPAs, and student involvement. Those invited to be a part of this institute have disciplined themselves to be scholars as well as exemplary leaders. Each student leader, in some way, has made a positive impact in the classroom and beyond.

“Leadership determines whether the ladder is leaning against the right wall.”
(Stephen R. Covey)

▪ **PROGRAMMING**

By identifying and assessing the leadership capacities of undergraduate students, operationalizing the principle from best practices, and exposing students to a variety of learning and leadership modalities, one can effectively prepare a set of well-prepared individuals who can readily participate in 21st century organizations. As such, the Winston-Salem State University Leadership Institute is trying to expand its programmatic thrusts and leadership initiatives. With the continued growth of the university, the Leadership Institute offers programs to include and accommodate the growing number of students who would like to be a part of the Leadership Institute. Some of these programs are as follows:

• **Leadership Institute Lecture Series**

The lecture series features top speakers from the local and national business community who interact with students through a series of regularly scheduled lectures. This includes political figures, business leaders, academicians, and community activities. The exposure to leaders from various fields of human endeavors provides a broad spectrum of the many dimensions of leadership and the current focal points of interest in the world. Examples of speakers who have participated in the lecture series include The Honorable Loretta C. Biggs (*Judge, NC Court of Appeals*), Mr. Derek Young (*Executive Director, 100 Black Men of Middle Tennessee*), and Mr. George Scott (*Founder and President of 'Just Plain Etiquette'*).

• **Leadership Institute Travel Series**

Students have the opportunity for national and international travel with leadership related initiatives. This includes attending leadership conferences sponsored by various organizations/major corporations and interacting with national business and political organizations that provide various forms of leadership for citizens. Inevitably, this type of networking leads to student leaders getting internships or even jobs with some of the corporations who send representatives to leadership conferences. For example, students from the WSSU Leadership Institute are currently planning to attend Philip Morris' Leadership Seminar in Concord, NC. Additionally, every year, scholars attend the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund (TMSF) Leadership Institute in New York. This annual Leadership Institute is an informative, intensive, four-day conference which provides many opportunities, such as: 1) participation in workshops and discussions with executives from America's leading corporations; 2) networking with major corporations, CEOs and executives; 3) networking with fellow TMSF students from the 47-member TMSF college/university group; and 4) developing career-building strategies. Additionally, throughout the conference, students are treated to wonderful receptions and special events, including a special affair honoring influential members of the business community.

• **Triad Leadership Academy**

The Triad Leadership Academy brings together some of the Piedmont's best and brightest students. Nearly 300 student organization leaders from Triad colleges and universities attend annually. The Academy aims to coordinate and promote leadership development and cultural awareness among Triad area college and university students. It strives to provide

student organization leaders the knowledge and resources they need to be successful on campus and in their careers. Additionally, it offers students as well as community and business leaders the opportunity to advance leadership and multicultural awareness in the Triad. The annual theme, "The Power of Partnerships" reflects the potential for institution, individual, and student organization-based partnerships. Students thoroughly enjoy the community-building opportunities offered during the Academy. Indeed, their collective efforts make a difference in their communities.

- **Annual Leadership Retreat**

The Leadership Retreat is a student development seminar that will promulgate, over a three-day period, the leadership principles, practices and procedures that serve as essential elements of individual and organization success. Historically, the retreat has been scheduled for one weekend in April. The highlight of the weekend is a presentation by a nationally-known guest speaker. In 2004, the keynote speaker was Ms. Dominique Dawes, the first African American gymnast to ever qualify and compete in the Olympic Games. In 2005, the keynote speaker was Kwame Jackson. Kwame Jackson, best known for his appearance on *The Apprentice*, is founder of Legacy Holdings LLC, a diversified holding company positioned to engage in real estate development, fashion, television, and film production.

- **Forum Luncheons ("Making the Connection")**

The purpose of the forum luncheons is to bring together students leaders and faculty mentors in a relaxed, congenial, collegial environment. The Leadership Institute invites highly motivated student leaders to participate in luncheons with faculty/staff and business representatives to explore common professional interests outside of the classroom.

These programs reflect compelling leadership priorities and initiatives for the Leadership Institute. They support an ongoing strategic plan to develop, enhance, and support professional development on local, regional, and national levels. In general, we want to give students the tools needed to function as leaders and role models on campus and in the community. Ultimately, it is the aim of the Leadership Institute to help student leaders forge healthy professional relationships, become part of a community of scholars, and enjoy abundant leadership opportunities.