LEADERSHIP DAVIDSON
Program Overview

Program Philosophy:

Students in Leadership Davidson develop their ability to inspire people to work together towards a common goal. These skills are developed experientially. Leadership Davidson provides a structure where students can reflect on their leadership experiences, learn new information, refine their leadership approach, and explore the effectiveness of this approach with the groups they serve. The participants, mentors, and staff in Leadership Davidson provide a network for support and feedback throughout the year.

Program Structure

Leadership Davidson is a year-long leadership development experience which includes the following components:

1. Each student develops a set of personal goals, based on self-analysis, which he or she hopes to work on for the duration of the program.

2. Students in the program are required to be actively involved as a leader in a campus or community organization. This becomes their leadership learning laboratory.

3. Students participate in weekly seminars. Students will participate in identifying and developing these seminars that will serve to enhance their leadership skills.

4. Students meet weekly with a mentor. Each student will be matched one to one with local and Charlotte area professional business and community leaders on the basis of personal interests and affinity with a particular area, organization, or office orientation. This will give students the opportunity to learn how leadership is exercised in a setting that is of interest to them but may be unfamiliar territory.

These components will be designed to improve the students’ overall leadership skills and enable them to use these skills beyond Davidson College. They provide opportunities for students to gain knowledge through experience while emphasizing direct application.

Program Goals:

1. To increase the effectiveness of student leaders and their student organizations.

2. To provide opportunities for students to explore the art and skill of leadership in today’s world.

3. To provide Davidson College and the larger community with educated and capable leaders.

4. To provide a leadership/mentoring experience with a community leader.

Commitments

Students in Leadership Davidson commit to meet weekly with their mentor and be an active participant in retreats and weekly seminars throughout the school year. You must be on campus all year to participate.
Specific Requirements:

Students may apply for Leadership Davidson if they are actively involved in a position of leadership in a campus or community organization. The position must be substantial enough for the student to apply information to the organization and use it as a laboratory. Participants are required to pay a registration fee of $25.

Program Schedule:

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<tr>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Opening Retreat: Topics will include team building, group development, personal goal setting, and seminar development. Opening Banquet – mentors and mentees meet.</td>
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<td>Late September to early April</td>
<td>Weekly meetings with mentors</td>
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<td>September – November</td>
<td>Seminars – meet on Thursday nights from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. Participants will select the topics at the opening retreat.</td>
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<td>Mid-January</td>
<td>Mentor/mentee luncheon and mid-year retreat: Reflection and action planning for the rest of the year.</td>
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<tr>
<td>January– March</td>
<td>Seminars – meet weekly for 90 minutes. Participants will select the topics at the mid-year retreat.</td>
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<td>Late March</td>
<td>Closing Reception</td>
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Selection Process

♦ Students participate in a mandatory information session in mid-April. (Students who are abroad will get information by e-mail.)

♦ Students complete an application by April 20.

♦ The applications will be reviewed by a selection committee.

♦ Finalists will be interviewed the end of April.

♦ Up to 20 students will be selected for Leadership Davidson. All applicants will be notified of their status by the first day of finals.
Weekly Seminars

How are topics chosen?

Students in Leadership Davidson select seminar topics at the Opening Retreat. Because people’s needs change throughout the year, the topics are revisited at the Mid-Year Retreat and revised as necessary.

Who plans the seminars?

Each participant in Leadership Davidson will co-lead a seminar planning team. Each team is comprised of up to five Leadership Development participants and one staff member. Participants self-select into these teams. The team determines the learning objectives for the session and helps to determine how the objectives will be achieved. Some possible seminar formats include inviting a guest speaker, hosting a panel, simulations, role plays, and structuring a group discussion.

List of Past Seminar Topics:

♦ Leadership Styles
♦ Strategies for Motivating and Empowering Others
♦ Handling Sticky Situations
♦ Public Speaking
♦ Decision Making Processes
♦ Cross-Cultural Leadership
♦ Dealing with Politics
♦ Healthy Leaders / Leadership
♦ Gender and Leadership
♦ Values / Ethics in Leadership
♦ Collaborative Leadership
♦ Group Dynamics
♦ Conflict Management
♦ Civic Responsibility
♦ Organizational Behavior
♦ Situational Leadership