

Nominator Information

Nominator	Suzanne M. Onorato	Email	onoratos@fiu.edu
Employer & Title	Florida International University, director, Women's Center	Phone Number	305.348.3692

Thank you for taking the time to nominate your program or another program that is demonstrating best practices for student leadership programs. Please complete all aspects of the nomination form and feel free to include additional commentary on a separate sheet of paper.

The Student Leadership Program Knowledge Community (SLP KC) recognizes the contributions of members who are transforming higher education through outstanding and innovative leadership programs and services. All NASPA members are encouraged to share successes and highlight best practices. Individuals can nominate or self-nominate exemplary college leadership programs for the SLP KC Spotlight Series. Selected programs will be highlighted on our website, in our quarterly newsletter and recognized at the NASPA SLP KC Annual Conference breakfast.

Nominated Program Information

Program Title	Women Who Lead
Program Contact	Suzanne M. Onorato Bronwen Bares
Email	onoratos@fiu.edu baresb@fiu.edu
Phone	305.348.3692 305.919.5359
Website	http://women.fiu.edu http://women.fiu.edu/WWL.htm

Program Category

Please check which category/s you are nominating this program.

Research & Assessment	This program demonstrates best practices in research and/or assessment of their student leadership program.	
Influences on Student Learning	This program influences student learning both in and out of the classroom.	X
Theory to Practice	This program integrates leadership theory and exposes students to the application of theory.	

Questions

Please describe how the program exemplifies the SLP KC mission statement.

“The mission of the Student Leadership Program Knowledge Community (SLP KC) is to serve as a resource for higher education professionals who have a professional interest in young-adult (i.e., college students) leadership training, education, and development. The Community will share best practices, provide critical evaluation of the field, examine standards for leadership programs, support national and regional efforts to develop student leadership programs, make contributions to the literature, recognize exemplary programs, and cultivate a forum for the presentation of new ideas.”

In March 2009, the Women's Center at Florida International University (FIU) hosted the third annual Women Who Lead conference, at both the University Park and Biscayne Bay Campuses. Women Who Lead is a day-long conference designed to further enhance the personal, professional and academic leadership development of female students at FIU via interactive sessions and networking events with successful women from the Miami-Dade community and across the nation. To accomplish this, the conference has four goals:

- (1) To enhance students' understanding and awareness about the scope of women in leadership in our society today;
- (2) To provide students with an opportunity to interact with and learn from women leaders in their chosen field of interest;
- (3) To develop a greater understanding of the diversity of careers available in their chosen field of interest;
- (4) To assist our female students in developing their personal leadership plan.

Over the past three years, the evolution of this event has taken it from four departments on campus hosting 200 students one evening in a single location to a university-wide event taking place on two campuses with two different keynote speakers and 24 breakout sessions hosting over 500 students. Partnerships between academic and student affairs at FIU have strengthened and grown since the first Women Who Lead event. A primary goal of the Women's Center was to develop an event that would engage the entire FIU community. The 2009 conference achieved that goal on the multi-campus institution and is now known throughout the FIU community as a signature annual event.

What category/s are you nominating the program for and why? (Research & Assessment, Influences on Student Learning, and Theory to Practice) Please describe what qualities and best practices make the nominated program an exemplary program.

The Women Who Lead conference has an exceptional influence on student learning. Because it is a true collaboration between academic and student affairs, the in-class and out of class experiences are intertwined in the experience. The keynote address is designed to promote awareness about the scope of women and leadership in society today. In addition, each academic department facilitates a workshop during the first breakout session. These sessions are designed to provide students with an opportunity to learn from the experiences of women leaders in their field of interest. For example, a finance student might attend the Women in Business panel discussion and learn from the experiences of women who are vice presidents of banks, entrepreneurs, and international financiers. Breakout session II addresses topics such as the glass ceiling and negotiation skills for women followed by a general interest session with women who have created legislative change moderated by a women mayor in the community. The conference concludes with a networking reception with speakers, participants and community agencies. Through these experiences students have the opportunity to learn from the journeys' of successful women leaders, learn about the role that gender plays in leadership, begin to conceptualize how these issues relate to their lives, and develop a skill set that will assist them in developing their leadership plan.

Signature of Nominator:

Suzanne M. Onorato

Date: March 20, 2009