



Spotlight Series

SLP KC MISSION

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.

SLP KC SPOTLIGHT SERIES

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.

THE SPOTLIGHT SERIES CATEGORIES INCLUDE:

Research and Assessment
Influences on Student Learning in and out of the Classroom
Theory to Practice

Deadlines to submit nominations are February 20, May 22, August 21, and November 20, 2009 with more detailed information on series categories and the nomination process to be shared in the near future.

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Melissa Shehane MShehane@stuact.tamu.edu or Sherry Early Sherry.Early@unlv.edu

Nominator Information

Nominator	Tom Sullivan	Email	Toms@stedwards.edu
Employer & Title	St. Edward's University Director of Student Life	Phone Number	512-448-8422

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.

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Nominated Program Information

Program Title	Hilltop Leaders
Program Contact	Leslie Sans, Assistant Director of Student Life – Hilltop Leadership Development (Brian Perry, Associate Director of Student Life – Program Creator)
Email	Brianp2@stedwards.edu
Phone	512-448-8422
Website	http://stedwards.edu/stulife/leadership/emerging.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.	
Theory to Practice	This program integrates leadership theory and exposes students to the application of theory.	X

Questions

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

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Hilltop Leaders exemplifies the SLP KC mission statement by providing college students a unique leadership development opportunity that focuses on exploring and understanding how leadership manifests itself in many ways across the country. Hilltop Leaders is a St. Edward's University, Student Life designed leadership exploration program intended to expose up to 20 St. Edward's University freshman/sophomores, who have demonstrated an interest in having an experiential learning opportunity related to leadership, to the many leadership avenues and practices seen in the Austin community as well as Washington D.C..

The format of the program is as follows:

- Sept. 9, 2009 – Session 1: Strengths Quest — Leslie Sans, Assistant Director, Student Life
- Sept. 16, 2009 – Session 2: Communication — Leading E.D.G.E. Facilitators
- Sept. 23, 2009 – Session 3: Ethical Leadership
- Sept. 30, 2009 – Session 4: Holy Cross Heritage and Servant Leadership
- Oct. 7, 2009 – Session 5: Trip to Texas State Capitol
- Oct. 14, 2009 – Session 6: Culture/Diversity Awareness — Jarrett Young, Asst. Dir., Student Life
- Oct. 21, 2009 – Session 7: Washington, D.C. Preparation Speaker
- Oct. 28, 2009 – Session 8: Washington, D.C. Preparation Speaker
- Nov. 3, 2009 – Washington, D.C. Prep Meeting
- Nov. 4–8, 2009 – Washington, D.C. Trip
- Nov. 11, 2009 – Session 9: Washington, D.C. Recap Speaker
- Nov. 18, 2009 – Session 10: Leading with Vision
- Dec. 2, 2009 – Session 11: Preparation for Spring

Over the course of the fall semester students meet weekly to engage in various leadership presentations, discussions and projects. Certain program dates offer unique opportunities to engage with leaders within the city of Austin in areas such as State and Local Government, Religion/Spirituality, Non-Profit Service Sector and Minority Leadership groups. Near the end of the fall semester students travel to Washington D.C. where they meet with leaders similar to those they met in Austin but at the national level. This offers the students an opportunity to compare and contrast the leadership practices of those they meet with and consider the implications on the local and national fronts. Upon return the students are challenged to connect to their own vision for leadership and consider how they will apply that vision to their immediate community. This is of course in association with the Social Change Model which serves as a standard foundation for programmatic offerings of the Student Life office. Finally, the students bring closure to their program by identifying a service opportunity within the community and functioning as a team to support the needs of that area of interest.

Those participating in the program this past year reported the following:

I have a greater understanding of how our government works.	92%	8%
I understand how decisions made on a national level can impact me.	100%	
I have a greater interest in understanding today's current issues.	92%	8%
I have a greater interest in getting involved with other organizations at St. Edward's.	100%	
I have a greater interest in contributing to my local community through community service.	100%	
My desire to learn more about leadership has increased because of my experience in Washington, D.C.	100%	
My desire to be a responsible citizen has increased because of my experience in Washington, D.C.	100%	
The Hilltop Leaders trip to D.C. had a positive effect on how I view St. Edward's University	92%	8%
I feel I have the tools necessary to accomplish the goals I set for myself as a result of the Washington D.C. trip.	100%	

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.

1. This program integrates leadership theory and exposes students to the application of theory. Hilltop Leadership Development structures all leadership programming on the Social Change Model of Leadership Development. Hilltop Leaders brings this theory to life by:
 - Individual:
 - a. Students will gain insight into their own styles of leadership and consider how they apply these leadership skills in their daily life.
 - Group:
 - a. Students will carefully examine what role they play in their campus experience through organizations, activities and university wide associations.
 - b. Students will learn about different city of Austin leadership structures and their application to the greater community as well as directly into their own lives.
 - Community:
 - a. Students will understand and demonstrate how their actions, values and leadership impact the greater community. A service project that brings all of these learning objectives together in the Austin community serves as the final demonstration in the student(s) growth and development during the Hilltop Leaders program.

One student reported – “where I have been a part of conversations in the classroom on a variety of leadership topics the Hilltop Leaders program made those topics real to me. Seeing how others lead in many arenas both locally and nationally really emphasized my role in contributing to the greater good.” Hilltop Leaders with Congressman Lloyd Doggett, Washington D.C.

Signature of Nominator: _____ Date: _____