



Emerging Leaders

An Active and Evolving Program for First Year Students

Emerging Leaders 2010-2011 is a leadership program that identifies and supports promising first year students through leadership development during their second year at Warren Wilson College. Emerging Leaders cultivate their leadership focus and skills within a positive, supportive, and reflective community of peers. Emerging Leaders meet change agents, including Wilson alumni, in Washington, DC, to learn about influencing national and global policy. The goal of the program is to encourage Emerging Leaders to demonstrate effective leadership on campus and beyond.

Mission: The Emerging Leaders Program will

- Recognize emerging leaders on campus
- Develop leadership skills, values, and perspectives
- Support a space and community in which students dream and plan big goals for their future
- Mentor student leaders in their efforts to reach personal, academic, service, and vocational goals
- Instill and reinforce a sense of duty, service to community, and integrity
- Examine how campus, community, national, and global leaders enact change

Core Commitment:

Emerging Leaders (ELs) attend a retreat to discuss visions of leadership, initiate a Leadership Growth Plan (LGP), and identify areas for further development. ELs demonstrate leadership in the second year through a leadership-in-action process that benefits the campus community. Each semester, ELs revise their LGPs and share them with Leadership Coaches, who serve as mentors. Emerging Leaders visit with political and other leaders in Washington, DC during Spring Break 2011. They invest five (5) hours for the greater good of the institution. Finally, ELs commit to exemplifying the values found in the *Emerging Leaders Oath* within the greater community.

Program Benefits:

Group Development: Emerging Leaders attend a weekend leadership retreat focused on communication, team-building, problem-solving, and goal setting. The next retreat will take place April 2-3, 2010, and *participation is mandatory for all ELs*. See details below.

Learning To Create Large-Scale Change: ELs travel to Washington, DC to learn the ropes for creating change and influencing Congress during the sophomore year. See details below.

Personal Development: ELs develop a Leadership Growth Plan (LGP), a living document meant to encourage ELs to regularly assess their goals and to write new ones as their passions develop or change direction.

Mentor Support/Networking: ELs meet each semester with Leadership Coaches (selected WWC faculty/staff) to discuss and refine their LGPs, and network with Wilson alums in Washington.

Selection Process: Applications for the Emerging Leaders Program, including responses to short-answer questions, two recommendation forms, and a current resume, will be accepted until the **Deadline, NOON, Feb. 26, 2010**. First Year Seminar instructors, crew leaders, residence life staff and others can nominate first year students in whom they see leadership potential. Students may also apply directly to the program, regardless of whether they were nominated. The program selects 12-14 students to participate each year.

For more information on *Emerging Leaders*, please contact Bates Canon at 828-771-3033 or bcanon@warren-wilson.edu, or Katie Buehner at 828-771-3726 or kbuehner@warren-wilson.edu.

Major Events:

Western North Carolina Retreat (April 2-3, 2010):

Leadership Styles—Students explore and examine traditional and emerging leadership styles and the themes influencing them. The benefits and drawbacks of various styles in different situations will be considered. Students will select area for personal development.

Problem Solving—Students look at several real-life problems facing WWC or communities in Western North Carolina. They work in small groups to develop practical solutions to these problems and present their solutions to the appropriate leaders at the end of the conference.

Leadership Growth Plan (LGP)—Students reflect upon their vision for leadership and document their goals in a Leadership Growth Plan, a living document to guide their development while they are enrolled in the program. By the WNC retreat, ELs will have their first LGP drafted with concrete ideas and plans for completing their first year and making the most of their summer. ELs are encouraged to develop a leadership portfolio.

Leadership Coaches—Following the retreat, each EL will be assigned a Leadership Coach to serve as a mentor. They will meet with their mentors before the end of the school year and at least once each semester throughout their sophomore year.

Leadership-in-Action — ELs work in small groups to plan and implement a Fall 2010 educational event on a shared concern that benefits the campus community. Leadership-in-Action will provide opportunities for working effectively within a group as well as developing one's own leadership skills by engaging in action as well as reflection.

Global Change Experience: Washington, DC Trip (Spring Break, 2011)

Influencing Congress—Students will meet with a Capitol Hill staffer to learn the process of what happens when letters/phone calls come in regarding issues. They will discuss the best ways to get the Congressperson's ear and learn the dos and don'ts of letter-writing and other means of contact.

Networking in the Nation's Capital—Students will meet with Wilson alumni living in or around DC and explore some of the how-tos for getting a volunteer position, internship, or a job in Washington. They also will gain insights and learn some of the realities of working and living in one of the most interesting cities on earth.

Investigating Contemporary Issues and Diverse Solutions—ELs will learn about issues driving contemporary political discourse. Through exposure to change-makers, in NGOs, think tanks, and Congress, ELs learn substance, strategy and tactics, and discover in-depth sources of information on both sides of issues in order to create solutions with wide appeal.

Leadership Models—ELs will meet an influential Washington "mover and shaker" or with a group of young staffers to discuss how they have learned or are learning to be effective leaders in Washington.

Leaders Throughout History—ELs will tour monuments and museums to discover examples of positive and negative leadership throughout U.S./world history. They will discuss these examples as a group to come up with "counter-histories" of what could have happened differently had the leader used a different leadership style.

Graduates of the Emerging Leaders Program are eligible to apply for a mini-grant for campus improvement.