

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP CENTER

BECOMING A LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE COACH



*Leadership Certificate Program Coordinator
congratulating a coach on her student's
completion in Spring 2007*

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Leadership Certificate Program

Illinois Leadership Center
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Leadership Certificate is available to students interested in making a commitment to develop and document their growth in the skills and attributes promoted by the Illinois Leadership initiative. The Certificate, administered by the Illinois Leadership Center, is available to all students to earn regardless of their academic major.

Based on the Illinois Philosophy of Leadership, a series of specific leadership skills and attributes serve as the basis for the programming efforts of the initiative. These Skills and Attributes, divided into four developmental categories, can be seen at: www.illinoisleadership.uiuc.edu/about/skills.asp

Students earning the Leadership Certificate must fulfill the following requirements :

- Work with a Leadership Coach as they progress through their Leadership Certificate.
- Complete a Personal Development Plan, including the identification of two major improvement goals.
- Be an active participant in two non-classroom group or team settings for at least one semester, contributing to the goals of those groups.
- Participate in a minimum of four leadership programs or workshops, including at least

three Illinois Leadership Center i-programs.

- Enroll in two UIUC academic course offerings related to leadership. One of the courses should be related to leadership course content (readings, cases, exercises, homework, etc.). The second one could also be content related or it could be related to leadership experiences (work as a team member on a class project, critical thinking skills developed, etc.).
- Document growth in some aspect of all 11 skills and attributes linked with the leadership initiative.
- Complete a Portfolio (electronic or paper) to document the progress of their experiences and to highlight their leadership development.



*A student with his coach at the end
of the completion ceremony in
Spring 2007*

GREETINGS POTENTIAL COACH!



A student with her coach during the completion ceremony in Spring 2007

What is the Leadership Certificate?

The Leadership Certificate is a structured program designed to provide students with experience and growth in leadership. The program is grounded in the Illinois Philosophy of Leadership which states that “all students can exercise leadership.” The Illinois Philosophy of Leadership is supported by eleven leadership skills and attributes identified by the Illinois Leadership initiative as skills that build success, whether it be career, family, or community related.

General Expectations of Being A Leadership Coach

The primary role of a Leadership Coach is to Listen, Assess and Coach.

- Listen empathetically to student
- Encourage student to reflect on their experiences and what they are learning, asking
- Ask student to elaborate (student should demonstrate growth in at-

- tributes and skills)
- Provide feedback on how well the student is meeting certificate requirements, advancing their major improvement goals and developing leadership skills
- Ascertain the quality of student’s experiences is sufficient in breadth and depth
- Assess with the student their strengths and weaknesses
- Give the student suggestions
- Ask the student to do some work for the next meeting
- Provide a new perspective to the student
- Challenge student to try something new or different—to do something outside their comfort zone
- Invite student to think about a developmental concept during daily or specific interactions

Practicalities of Being a Coach



A student sharing his electronic portfolio in Spring 2007

- Meet with student at least twice a semester; student schedules
- Expect student to come to meetings prepared to talk and reflect
- The student should provide a progress report at the meetings
- Be prepared to discuss certificate status with student (review student’s status and requirements prior to meetings)

- Plan to spend about 4 hours per semester; e.g., two 1-hour meetings and 2 hours doing other things such as responding to emails, preparing for student meetings,



A student sharing his electronic portfolio in Spring 2007

- assessing student progress
- Ensure that student has developed an outline that will ensure all requirements will be completed prior to graduation
- Verify that student is writing reflections of each leadership related experience and is creating a Leadership Portfolio

“I have been able to establish a meaningful relationship with my leadership coach because he has a good sense of my strengths and weaknesses. Needless to say, he has pointed out to me the areas in which I can still improve upon in order to become a better leader.”

- *Nayeli Valentinex*
Spring 2007 Certificate Completer

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LEADERSHIP COACH INTEREST

I NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT:

THE LEADERSHIP CENTER

THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A COACH

NAME

ADDRESS

E-MAIL ADDRESS

PHONE

Please email me:

COACH INFORMATION SHEET TO SIGN UP TO BE A COACH

SPECIFIC COACH MATERIALS

MORE INFO ABOUT LEADERSHIP CENTER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.ILLINOISLEADERSHIP.UIUC.EDU

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