



NOVEMBER 2007

A Look at Service Leadership Seminar...

This August, the Center for Leadership and Civic Education hosted the 6th annual Service Leadership Seminar (SLS). Each year, a select group of first year students dedicate three and a half days to leadership learning and experiential service opportunities. Participants begin the seminar at the FSU Reservation with a challenge course. Following a day at the Rez, students participate in service projects, attend workshops, and plan a culminating service project that is executed on the last day of the seminar. Each component of the seminar focuses on equipping participants with the knowledge and resources to serve and lead in their campus, local, and global communities.

The SLS experience traditionally produces a strong cohort of students who are inspired and prepared to serve their communities. An intentional focus is placed on leadership learning by incorporating the Social Change Model of Leadership Development (HERI, 1996) into the seminar curriculum. The Social Change Model of Leadership assumes that leadership is a value-based, collaborative, change process in which all individuals are potential leaders; and specifically that service is a vehicle through which leadership learning occurs. The model emphasizes the importance of understanding self and others and outlines three learning perspectives: the individual, the group, and the community. Each of these three perspectives influences and affects the other two.

Reflecting on the Social Change Model of Leadership through the opportunities of SLS, participants are introduced to the connectedness of service and leadership. Their individual learning experiences, coupled with group collaborative



learning and community involvement, enforces the reality of an individual's ability to lead change. Putting into action the Social Change Model of Leadership through SLS not only inspires and prepares SLS participants to serve, but also empowers them as active leaders working for positive, sustainable change.

In the six years since the first SLS over 140 students have participated in the program. SLS not only impacts students' service to their communities, as a collective SLS participants have completed almost 27,000 volunteer hours, but academically as well. The SLS participants have an overall retention rate of 89% and on average a 3.2 GPA.

Carrie Tucker
Center for Leadership &
Civic Education
SLS Coordinator

SLS 2007 Planning Committee

Lisa Brown
Chad Corbitt
Mandy Hambleton
Gina Kittel
Leandra Ramos
Heather Skojec
Carrie Tucker

Service Hours Recorded	
2002	4920
2003	6435
2004	7956
2005	5154
2006	2282

Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306
(850) 644-3342
<http://thecenter.fsu.edu>

"SLS was a great way to jumpstart the FSU experience by learning how to set an example and be a leader in my community."
- Zach Hutchinson

"As cliché as it sounds, SLS changed my life. Until SLS, I never thought it was possible to have 40+ such dynamic, civic-minded people in the same group working to bring past experiences together to change the world. I strongly recommend that all freshmen consider SLS in order to meet and network with some of the top faculty on campus during their first week as a Seminole."
- Julie LeBlanc



"SLS was definitely the best choice I could have made in those first weeks of my college career. The learning, activities and positive social fellowships are some I will never forget. This program is, without-a-doubt, changing lives. I know that growing from these experiences I'm headed down a path of success."
-Kim Powell

"I learned that we don't have to wait for the world to change. We can change it ourselves, all we need is a little help from people as dedicated as we are, like the people from SLS '07."
-Katie Sundy

Available in Alternative Format. If there are any questions or concerns, please contact the Division of Student Affairs at (850) 644-5590.

Division of Student Affairs
Florida State University
313 Westcott Building
Tallahassee, FL 32306-1340