



The Evolution of I-Programs

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TO CELEBRATE THE ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP CENTER

This semester, the Illinois Leadership Center (ILC) is commemorating its 15th anniversary by counting down 15 reasons to celebrate the ILC. This week, we are highlighting the evolution of i-Programs.

The ILC officially opened its doors in 2002, and the first i-Program occurred well before then. In February of 2000 our inaugural program, Insight, occurred in Findlay, Illinois at Eagle Creek Resort. 78 students attended this program which focused on self-awareness. Due to the success of Insight, more programs were added over the years focusing on a variety of topic areas.

The Intersect Program was added in 2001 focusing on effective teamwork and collaboration. Ignite was added in May 2003 focusing on organizational change and systems thinking. In February 2004, Imprint was launched, a program led by Illinois alumni focusing on networking and personal branding. In January of 2006 Integrity was added which focuses on ethical decision making. Each of these programs were offered as overnight programs which resulted in an amazing community building opportunity for the students who attended.

In 2009, all programs were shifted to a one day format in an effort to reach more students. Then after a ten year hiatus without adding any new programs, Inclusion and Innovation were created and piloted in the spring of 2016. Inclusion explores concepts such a diversity, equity, privilege, and access. Innovation focuses on creativity and problem solving. Both of these programs were created to provide leadership trainings that are culturally relevant to current Illinois students.

Over the years the term 'i-Program' has become synonymous with the Illinois Leadership Center. In 2012, to recognize the generous support of Anthony J. Petullo (Gies College of Business, '61) and the impact he had in helping the ILC to open its doors, the ILC's first program, Insight, was renamed to Petullo Insight. We have had other great supporters to i-Programs over the years, many which have come in the form of collaborations with other campus departments. These collaborations have led to specialized i-Programs run for specific student groups. Collaborations with the Illinois Engineering First Year Experience and New Student Programs resulted in summer sessions of the Intersect program. Partnership with Fraternity & Sorority Affairs has resulted in versions of Integrity and Imprint for Greek affiliated students.

At the first i-Program, that blustery February in 2000, there were likely few people who could have imagined i-Programs becoming what they are today: a suite of programs that represent seven different topic areas, offered 13 times, impacting over 1200 students a year. With a wait list for most i-Programs programs, it is easy to believe that in another 15 years we will look back and see another period of growth and innovation for the Illinois Leadership Center and its i-Programs.

To stay up to date with the commemoration of our 15th anniversary, be sure to visit leadership.illinois.edu/about/15.