



The Leadership Workshop Series: Reaching more students than ever before



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 our Leadership Workshop Series.

This year, we are on pace to have almost 9000 students participate in formal leadership learning experiences through the ILC. A big part of that is due to our growing Leadership Workshop Series. Currently we offer leadership trainings developed specifically to intact student groups (e.g., registered student organizations, academic classrooms, student employees). These sessions are by request, and in the 2017 fall semester we led 134 leadership workshops reaching approximately 3,700 students!

But what are these sessions about? Currently we offer trainings focused on the following topics: conflict management, teamwork, empathy, motivation, strategic planning, communication skills, and CliftonStrengths®. These workshops are more than just a training; the sessions are facilitated in an interactive and dynamic setting that challenges participants to actively engage in their development.

Perhaps the best example of this is our empathy session. Participants are pushed to understand what empathy is through a series of videos and guided discussion, then complete a questionnaire that helps them understand how empathetic they are. We continue the session with a series of activities that focus on teaching active listening as a tool to be more empathetic. The interactive formula is working, as 88% of attendees this past fall found the leadership workshop they attended to be a valuable learning experience.

What makes this initiative extraordinary is that a majority of these sessions are led by student educators; the ILC employs a team which consists of a Graf Intern and Leadership Paraprofessionals whose primary focus is to serve as leadership peer educators. They research the group they'll be working with to provide a customized experience for participants, while ensuring we are meeting our learning outcomes and that student participants have a great experience.

Since 2010-2011 the Leadership Workshop Series has been a growing part of our enterprise. What started as trainings centering solely on the DISC® Personality Profile Assessment, reaching 230 students a year, has grown to include resources from the Gallup organization, TED Talks, interactive activities, a range of personality assessments, and excerpts from some of today's most impactful leadership textbooks. We are now reaching nearly 6000 students each year.

In less than 10 years we have had an increase of 2509% of students reached through the leadership workshop series. We have also launched a consulting service where we provide student groups personalized feedback on their unique organizational challenges. The combination of our workshop series and consulting service are areas that will continue to allow us to reach more students, and one day be enable us to say, every undergraduate student at Illinois has participated in an Illinois Leadership Center program.

Reason #7 to celebrate the Illinois Leadership Center: The Leadership Workshop Series!

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

To RSVP for our event celebrating 15 years of leadership follow this link: <https://forms.illinois.edu/sec/440994>