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 Institute™ by LeaderShape®, one of the first formal leadership programs at Illinois, now in its 24th year!

The Institute™ by LeaderShape® is a nationally-recognized six-day, five-night, leadership development program that takes place over winter-break at the University of Illinois Allerton Park and Retreat Center in Monticello, Illinois. At The Institute, participants learn how to lead with integrity while working towards a vision grounded in their deepest values. Participants explore not only what they want to do, but who they want to be. They create a vision for change and an action plan designed to assist them in effectively implementing their vision and goals. The program is open to 65 undergraduate students each year, and led by two lead facilitators and six family cluster facilitators. The cluster facilitators are Illinois faculty, staff and alumni.

As a result of attending The Institute™ by LeaderShape® the 2017 attendees reported:
• Increased clarification of personal values
• Enhanced understanding of self
• Increased leadership efficacy
• Skills in Vision mapping and goal setting
• Increased resilience
• Stronger ability to collaborate
• Deeper understanding of privilege
• Of the 63 attendees at The Institute™ in 2017, 100% would recommend The Institute™ to others, and 97% felt The Institute™ was a valuable experience to develop leadership capacity.

Here are some quotes from students who attended:

“My experience at the Institute by LeaderShape was phenomenal. I’ve been able to develop lifelong friendships that make me humble about where I am currently. The Institute helped me develop a vision and help me establish my core values that I think about every day. Without this experience I wouldn’t have been able to figure out who I am inside.”
-- Juan Reyes, Senior, Molecular and Cellular Biology Major

“The LeaderShape Institute experience was one of the most inspiring, deep, and enriching times of my college career. I went into it not knowing what to expect, and came out of it filled with passion and excitement. The week was filled with cheesy life quotes and sappy bonding that ended up being one of the realest and deepest moments with my peers. The bonds and connections I made during that week are irreplaceable, and the topics and visions we talked about were unbelievably inspiring. I wouldn’t trade this experience for the world and will remember this one week of college for the rest of my life.”
-- Stephanie Smolen, Senior, Neuroscience and Speech-Language Pathology Major

Reason #8 to celebrate the Illinois Leadership Center: The Institute™ by LeaderShape®!

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