Letter from the Director

Welcome to the Center for Leadership at Western Carolina University! We are excited to bring you the first newsletter out of the Center for Leadership. Much like other areas of WCU, we want to share with each of you the great things we are doing in the Center and the wonderful opportunities, resources, and programs we offer. Our philosophy is to engage and provide the Western Carolina University community and its students with a holistic leadership experience through connecting our curricular programs with our co-curricular activities.

The Center is located on the 2nd floor of the A.K. Hinds University Center and is the home of the WE LEAD programs, Leadership Minor, and the annual WCU Leadership Day of Dialogue. We will soon be introducing several new leadership programs, CatCamp, Catalyst and LeaderShape. As part of The Center’s leadership umbrella, our student organizations include the Freshman Leadership Institute (FLI), the Leadership Institute, Greek Life, and the Student Government Association (SGA) which all function as the coordinating body for the university’s present and future leadership-related activities and programming. Our faculty, staff and students associated with the Center’s programs will become skilled and educate one another in many areas of diverse leadership practices and take what they learn inside and out of the classroom to create positive social change on campus and beyond.

With the many changes going on with the campus and the vision to make WCU one of the leading campuses in North Carolina, the Center for Leadership is excited about the many great additions and changes we have made to our program. Through the additions of our new Greek Life Advisor and new Assistant Director for Leadership programs, having several graduate students out of the College Student Personnel (CSP) program, and a change in how Greek Life and Student Government Association operate, we have begun to bring a more professional and synergistic philosophy to how leadership is conducted and modeled here at Western Carolina University.

The Center for Leadership and its partnerships with many great departments on campus together will continue to build strong foundations for our students to grow from and we look forward to sharing all these success stories with you in the future.

Be the change you want to see in the world!

~ Ghandi

Thanks!

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Began working at Western Carolina in 2004 in the Office of Development. She worked with annual funds and special gifts.
The Dr. Robert Caruso Freshman Leadership Institute (FLI) welcomed a new group of 41 students this Fall. The incoming freshmen are full of life and excited to start their journey at Western Carolina University.

FLI is expanded its current format and are now working to become a recognized student organization by electing a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is made up of ten students who went through an application and interview process for positions such as the Director of Campus Relations, the Director of Fundraising, and the Director of Conference Programs, to name a few. The selected students were asked to give a speech and elections followed. We have a very energetic and goal driven group now leading FLI into 2010.

Each Director has a committee of other FLI students to help out with the duties of the office and to plan programs for the rest of FLI and campus. These are students who have shown interest and potential in their areas. This way, each student has a possibility for leadership development and can contribute to the organization.

With the fall semester drawing to a close, the Board of Directors has begun to plan for the spring. In January the Freshman Leadership Institute will be heading to Bonclarken Conference Center, in Flat Rock, NC, for an overnight retreat to plan out the rest of the spring semester within their committees, participate in team building and low ropes activities, and of course, have fun!

It has been a great year thus far. With the continued support of the faculty, staff, campus community, and families of the Freshman Leadership Institute students, we are certain to continue our success.

Student Government Association
BY: Mike Corelli

The student Government Association (SGA) has been actively working to create a new image and philosophy into how they operate and do the work for the WCU student body. Under the leadership of Josh Cotton(SGA President) and Nicole Jesserer (SGA Vice-President), SGA has begun to create legislature and programs to help shape the way students at WCU are impacted. Through initiatives such as approving new programs, like the Clean Energy Initiative where resources will be allocated to enhance the way energy is efficiently used on campus in the years to come, to having events like the campus Halloween Party and Diversity programs, the leaders of SGA have continued to put the needs of WCU student as a priority.
The Office of Greek Life has been busy so far this semester, with restructuring Greek Council, to bringing three NIC Fraternities on campus for expansion of the Interfraternity Council, and a series of monthly Greek wide events. One weekend in September, the Executive Boards of the College Panhellenic Council (CPC), National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC), and the Interfraternity Council (IFC), went on a retreat to discuss issues facing the Greek Community. At the end of the retreat, Greek Council took on a new look bringing the idea of continuous discussion of these issues. All Greek-letter organizations, regardless of classification, are welcome to join Greek Council.

This semester, the Office of Greek Life has fielded many calls from NIC Fraternities expressing interest in opening or re-opening chapters at WCU. In October, Sigma Nu Fraternity was invited to present to the Greek community about re-opening a chapter at WCU. Over the next few weeks Theta Xi Fraternity and Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity will present to the Greek community on starting colonies at WCU in the future.

Each month the Office of Greek Life has hosted a Greek wide event open to everyone on campus. In September, LMP and Greek Life sponsored an outdoor movie. October was the Greek Dance-a-thon. There was a night of dancing, limbo, and prizes. November will be the Greek Fall Classic Softball Game. Teams with members from each Greek organization will be playing in a friendly game of softball complete with food, fun, and music. The December event will be announced soon.