

LOOK: Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders Today

Margaret A. Jenkins, FCS Educator; Nanette L. Neal, ANR Educator; Trevor M. Corboy, CD Program Coordinator; Kelly M. Royalty, 4-H Educator

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Leaders are needed wherever there are groups of people. Leadership theories over the past 100 years identify leadership as multi-dimensional. Theorists have explored leadership as a "trait or ability, a skill or a behavior and a relationship or process" (Northouse, 2012, p.9). In reality "preparing tomorrow's leaders today" takes exploration of all the dimensions as they interact with each other within the current social context.

LOOK to Clermont is a teen leadership and workforce preparation program developed to meet the demand to prepare teens for leadership today and into the future. However, to address emerging issues the program consists of both an online component and place-based learning experiences designed to develop and enhance all dimensions of leadership.

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Identify, strengthen and provide a forum for eligible 11 and 12 grade high school students to learn, build and practice transferable leadership skills
2. Link local government, economics, agriculture, STEM and healthy living to social issues, community action and daily life
3. Provide experiential learning to meet objectives of Foundations of Personal and Professional Leadership (COMLDR 3530) at The Ohio State University
4. Develop meaningful relationships between youth and adults to foster networking and advance workforce preparation skills
5. Encourage talented and skilled young adults to remain in or return to Ohio as they embark on future employment



Students participate in monthly learning strategies including County History and Agriculture Tour at a local producer (left photo) and Civic Engagement at the county commissioners' office (right photo).

PROGRAM DESIGN

Leadership Opportunities for Organizational Knowledge



Who: High School Juniors and Seniors (Comprehensive, Career Technical, Homeschool, Private)

What: Innovative program aligned with Foundations of Personal and Professional Leadership course (COMLDR 3530) offered on main campus allowing senior students to enroll and earn College Credit Plus through The Ohio State University Academy

When: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – One monthly school day August through April

Where: Local businesses, government agencies, landmarks and parks throughout Clermont County

How: A series of place-based, online, classroom and practical learning strategies and experiences

Monthly Learning Theme Days:

- Call to Action/ Real Colors ®
- Teambuilding
- County History and Agriculture Tour
- Civic Engagement
- Roadmap to Your Future
- Personal Finance
- Safety and Justice
- Community Development
- Envision the Future
- Commencement



2016 LOOK to Clermont participants with Sheriff Rodenberg on Safety and Justice Day.



2016 LOOK to Clermont participants on Civic Engagement Day at the County Administration Building with Commissioner Proud.

PARTNERSHIPS

- University of Cincinnati Clermont College
- Local, County, State and Federal Government
- County High Schools (13)
- County Departments and Elected Officials
- Home School Networks
- Area Business and Community Leaders
- Agricultural Producers and Businesses
- Clermont County League of Women Voters
- Chamber of Commerce & Foundation
- Civic Organizations
- Community Volunteers

SUCSESSES

- ✓ Creation of LOOK to Clermont Alumni Group
- ✓ Meeting the emergent needs of the iGen learner via: go.osu.edu/LOOKtoClermont
- ✓ Incorporation of students better understanding agriculture such as Farm to Table
- ✓ Understanding the two faces of urban and rural within Clermont County
- ✓ Utilizes all four program areas- 4-H Youth Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources, Community Development and Family & Consumer Sciences
- ✓ Embraced workforce development for future leaders
- ✓ LOOK to Clermont identified essential in community visioning process, *Connect Clermont*

CHALLENGES

- ❑ Acquisition of college credit in a non-traditional setting at both the high school and college level
- ❑ Long term sustainable funding
- ❑ Addressing the emergent needs of the iGen learner
- ❑ Motivation for students to follow written directions and responsibilities

EVALUATION

Student participants completed an evaluation at the end of each theme day scoring each component. Various forms of evaluations have been used, such as Likert Scale and short answer to show planned behavioral change. Results tallied from 102 students enrolled 2011-2016 indicate impact.

INVESTING FOR IMPACTS

Short Term

- Gained knowledge of personal strengths
- Learned leadership and teambuilding skills
- Opinions of county changed in a positive direction
- Personal aspirations and motivation for continued education were refined and increased

Intermediate

- Practiced and changed behavior based on personal strengths and personal leadership philosophy
- Made personal life decisions based on personal traits, economic fact and social context
- Engaged in service learning projects with a group of peers to meet a community need

Long Term

- All students enrolled completed the requirements to earn College Credit Plus
- A significant number of students have self reported enrollment in higher education
- Students continue engagement beyond the LOOK to Clermont program as mentors
- Several team projects continue to exist by improving the environment and building family and community relationships

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Clifton, D. O., Anderson, E., Schreiner, L. A.. (2006). *StrengthsQuest: Discover and Develop Your Strengths in Academics, Career, and Beyond*. New York: Gallup Press

Gruenewald, D. A, Smith, G. A. (2007). *Place-Based Education in the Global Age: Local Diversity*. New York: Routledge Publishers

Kouzes, J.M. & Posner, B. Z. (2008). *The Student Leadership Challenge: Five Practices for Exemplary Leader*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishers

Covey, S. R. (2013). *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. New York: Simon & Schuster

Northouse, P.G. (2012). *Introduction to LEADERSHIP: Concepts and Practice*. California: Sage Publication.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We wish to thank our community partners for making this program possible. In addition the Department of Agricultural Communication, Education, and Leadership.