

Introducing **Iowa N.E.W. Leadership**

Iowa N.E.W. Leadership is an intensive 5-day residential institute designed to further develop young women's public leadership skills, support their engagement in civic life, and create opportunities for them to build relationships with women involved in public leadership on the local, state, and national level. The goal of the program is to increase representation and participation of women at all levels of public leadership, including the non-profit sector, state government, and elected office. The program challenges participants to look at politics and public policy through a critical lens, while engaging them in the legislative process as a citizen and advocate early in their careers. Developed by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University in 1991, the non-partisan program has been so effective that it is now conducted at 21 universities nationwide. The University of Iowa joined this network in 2007 and will hold its fifth Summer Institute May 21-25, 2012.

As an organization and as part of the University, the Women's Resource and Action Center (WRAC) is invested in offering this challenge to young women. At a national and statewide level, women still are not equally represented in political leadership positions. While women account for 51 percent of the U.S. population, less than one-fourth of the country's elected officials are women. Of the 535 members of the 112th U.S. Congress, only 90 are women. Across the country, only 23 percent of state legislators are women, and in Iowa, only 21 percent are women. Although Iowa can be proud of its long-held commitment to women's higher education, it remains among four states that have never sent a woman to the U.S. House or Senate--nor has Iowa ever elected a woman as Governor. Here at the University of Iowa only 3 women have served as Student Government President since 1988.

While the number of women in leadership positions in the U.S. has increased in the past two decades, our progress toward equality can be dramatically accelerated through the early education and support of women in their academic and professional lives. Iowa N.E.W. Leadership helps young women and their communities take a strong first step towards accomplishing real parity.

Iowa N.E.W. Leadership ***Summer Institute***

The 2012 Iowa N.E.W. Leadership Summer Institute will take place May 21 through May 25 on The University of Iowa campus. Approximately forty women from colleges and universities across Iowa will be selected to attend.



IOWA N.E.W. *L* **LEADERSHIP**

National Education for Women's Leadership

At the Iowa N.E.W. Leadership Summer Institute, you will:

- Learn about the historical and contemporary participation of women in politics.
- Consider the role of conflict and collaboration in the public sphere.
- Build skills necessary to empower yourself and others in a diverse society.
- Develop valuable relationships with women leaders from across Iowa.
- Explore the influence of public policy while discovering your powers of advocacy.

Making Connections

During the Summer Institute, you will meet with women leaders and scholars to think, talk, and learn about politics and women's leadership. You will become part of a network of past, current, and future women leaders who share a commitment to shaping the public agenda and making a difference in their communities. In a recent survey of past participants, over 90% said that N.E.W. Leadership increased their understanding of politics, their ability to participate in the political process, and their leadership capabilities. N.E.W. Leadership alumnae have gone on to work as campaign consultants, legislative staffers, community organizers, lobbyists, and office holders.

What does it Cost?

In order to maintain the program's non-partisan integrity, commitment to diversity, and financial accessibility, WRAC offers this program to selected participants at no cost.

Who is eligible?

- Female students enrolled in any Iowa college or university for the 2011-2012 academic year, or who are Iowa residents enrolled in out-of-state colleges, pursuing any field of study.
- Women of color and non-traditional students are strongly encouraged to apply.

NOMINATION DEADLINE JANUARY 20, 2012
APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 17, 2012



For more information, please contact

Megan Schwalm-Bell
Program Coordinator, Iowa N.E.W. Leadership
wrac-newleadership@uiowa.edu or 319.335.1486
Application and nomination materials are available at
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~wrac/>

Iowa N.E.W. Leadership's Alumni say...

"I wouldn't trade my experience with the N.E.W. Leadership program for anything. Outside of making connections and friends, I grew as a person, and developed the skills and the desire to be actively involved in politics."

"I have an interest in politics and being actively involved on a different, higher level than before. I was exposed to so many new and challenging processes, but almost all were empowering experiences."

"Motivation. Empowerment. Knowledge. Experience. Appreciation and respect. I've never been to a conference where I've really walked away with more than free stuff."

"N.E.W. Leadership gave me confidence in my ability to lead. Not only for future political positions, but the current leadership posts I have and am striving for in my career. It created a real desire to know more about the world and to help change it."



Iowa N.E.W. Leadership is a program of the
Women's Resource and Action Center
at The University of Iowa
130 N. Madison St., Iowa City, IA



The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination in employment, educational programs, and activities on the basis of race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or associational preference. The University also affirms its commitment to providing equal opportunities and equal access to University facilities. For additional information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, (319) 335-0705.

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Women's Resource & Action Center
130 N. Madison St.
Iowa City, IA 52242
319.335.1486
www.uiowa.edu/~wprac



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Changing the face of public leadership!



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May 21-25, 2012 • The University of Iowa