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Student Leadership
Institute
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SLI STUDENTS' NEWSLETTER

The Lead Story

SLI Kicks Off Second Year of Leadership Activities

The Student Leadership Institute directors and staff welcome each new participant. We are excited to work with such a promising group of leaders.

If the kick-off activities are an indication, the week promises to be an interesting exercise in group dynamics and creativity.

All SLI participants were selected because your college believes in your leadership potential. In addition to making new friends and contacts, you should take notes, lis-

ten actively and participate fully so you can return to your campuses and make a difference at your schools and in your communities.

Last year's SLI graduates have done exciting things at their

colleges—many have developed and conducted workshops and others have taken on impressive community service projects.

We look forward to sharing in the accomplishments of the SLI class of 2001.



Body to body ice breaker ... It appears some SLI participants have unique ways of following directions.

SLI Graduate Shares Leadership Insight

**By Johnathan Dillon,
2000 SLI Graduate**

As a student leader, I know how hard leadership can be.

Throughout my leadership endeavors, I have come to the conclusion that leaders are not born; one must be trained in order to become a strong leader. As a graduate of the Student Leadership Institute, I have developed many of the qualities of an effective leader.

Some of the qualities I believe good leaders should have are:

Quality Communication Skills—These are very important. If you don't know how to communicate with your peers, you may not be able to communicate with your instructors, administrators, advisors, congressmen or even your family. The people you are working with need to know that you

are knowledgeable and that you mean business.

Honesty—Any leader in any position should be honest with others and himself/herself.

Confidence—Leaders should be confident—or at least look that way. A leader will become more confident with training. If you have confidence, it will show in your leadership roles and the way you handle stressful circum-

Networking tips for professionals-to-be

By Tammy Markland, 2000 SLI graduate

Networking is one of the most important skills you can develop to improve your career opportunities. A smart leader will always remember that the people s/he meets may be useful at some time in the future.

Networking means utilizing the people you know and meet. As you're meeting new people, be careful to plant seeds about your abilities and personality that they may use later.

It is not difficult to learn to network. Some helpful hints for networking are:

A) Decide who your network is (ie: neighbors, employers, co-workers, administrators, instructors, advisors, people you meet at conferences).

B) When you introduce yourself, do so clearly and professionally. Present a business card if possible.

C) Make mental notes; ask for a business card. As soon as you can, take a moment to make notes about the meeting. This will help you remember the event and the person's name.

D) Keep in touch with your contact. (Call or send a note to let the person know you're willing to help.)



Blindfold exercise proves leadership involves trusting and listening to others.

E) Be friendly. Force yourself to talk with people even if you are introverted and shy. Practice will make networking easier.

F) Always project an image you want people to remember about you. We communicate through our dress, habits and expressions. Observe people who are successful in your field. Note what they do to project the image that works for them.

G) Always expand your network.

H) Keep an updated file of contacts.

Remember, when you add someone to your network, you are being added to theirs. Always be on your best behavior because someone may be watching you and taking notes.

Successful networking boils down to this: it's not what you know (although it helps to be knowledgeable), but whom you know. (*Ed. Note: And whom you know that likes you.*)



This table is so thrilled to be at the SLI that they all cleaned their plates.

2000 SLI grad shares insights... continued.

stances. **Organization**—A productive and strong leader needs to be organized. Good leaders need to have an effective system that works for them. There is no one way to be organized; each leader is different.

These are not the only qualities that good leaders need to have; these are some of the qualities that I believe are important. The most important thing to remember that you are unique, and being a student leader is always a