



Leadership, Compassion, & Creativity Certificate

What constitutes leadership?

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

-John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the United States



*“With realization of one's own potential and self-confidence in one's ability,
one can build a better world.” – Dalai Lama*



The Leadership, Compassion, and Creativity Certificate Program

Mission

The Leadership, Compassion, & Creativity Certificate's (LCCC) mission is to expand opportunities and support student learning, research, and intellectual discourse. By exploring the values of leadership, compassion, & creativity across all Student Affairs disciplines and with people of all communities, our LCCC students will be able to learn more about how they as students can practice effective leadership in their current roles, civic life, and future careers.

Purpose

- Establish a community of learners working together not only to better themselves, but also one another
- Encourage leadership as a process through which people work together to create a positive impact
- Gain the skills to serve others in this community and the global world, specifically increasing student's civic engagement
- Expose students to resources available for them to engage fully in co-curricular activities
- Motivate students to engage fully in their college community by exploring all available opportunities for learning
- Help students recognize that they are responsible for their own development as leaders
- Engage students in an exploration of practical skills necessary for successful transition through college, and into the working world
- Create a strong foundation upon which to build students' co-curricular academic record and launch their vocational exploration

What Are the Benefits?

There are many benefits for students who complete the LCCC certificate as shared below.

1. Students will receive an official university document upon completion.
 - The Leadership Certificate is signed by the Vice President for Student Affairs, and the LCCC Program Director.
2. Recognition at graduation by means of a medal.
3. Enhance personal and professional goals and objectives.
 - Opportunity to select programs that are fitted to students personal and professional objectives.
4. Increased understanding of self-awareness.
 - This program is an opportunity for personal growth and development for all participating students. By completing reflections at the end of each program and, creating a storyboard presentation at the conclusion of the certification process, students will be able to discuss their areas of personal growth.
5. Establish relationships with students, staff, faculty, and the local community.
 - As students work through the certification process, they will have the opportunity to develop relationships with a wide range of students, staff, faculty, and local community members. This will also help the students build professional references.
6. Preparation for life after college through learning opportunities and service projects.
 - The program will help students develop professional references and learn the skills necessary to perform tasks in a variety of professions.
7. Competitive edge for graduate schools and prospective employers.
 - Because this is a unique program, it will give students an additional edge when looking for life beyond WCSU. Additionally, students will be able to identify transferrable skills not necessarily acquired through classroom experiences.





The National Association of Colleges and Employers

Each discipline and the events/programs associated with the LCCC Program is tagged with at least one of the NACE Competencies. These competencies are listed below.

NACE Career Readiness Competencies			
<i>Critical Thinking / Problem Solving</i>	<i>Oral / Written Communication</i>	<i>Teamwork / Collaboration</i>	<i>Digital Technology</i>
Exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems. The individual is able to obtain, interpret, and use knowledge, facts, and data in this process, and may demonstrate originality and inventiveness.	Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively in written and oral forms to persons inside and outside of the organization. The individual has public speaking skills; is able to express ideas to others; and can write/edit memos, letters, and complex technical reports clearly and effectively.	Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers representing diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, religions, lifestyles, and viewpoints. The individual is able to work within a team structure, and can negotiate and manage conflict.	Leverage existing digital technologies ethically and efficiently to solve problems, complete tasks, and accomplish goals. The individual demonstrates effective adaptability to new and emerging technologies.
<i>Leadership</i>	<i>Professionalism / Work Ethic</i>	<i>Career Management</i>	<i>Global / Intercultural Fluency</i>
Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals, and use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others. The individual is able to assess and manage his/her emotions and those of others; use empathetic skills to guide and motivate; and organize, prioritize, and delegate work.	Demonstrate personal accountability and effective work habits, e.g., punctuality, working productively with others, and time workload management, and understand the impact of non-verbal communication on professional work image. The individual demonstrates integrity and ethical behavior, acts responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind, and is able to learn from his/her mistakes.	Identify and articulate one's skills, strengths, knowledge, and experiences relevant to the position desired and career goals, and identify areas necessary for professional growth. The individual is able to navigate and explore job options, understands and can take the steps necessary to pursue opportunities, and understands how to self-advocate for opportunities in the workplace.	Value, respect, and learn from diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and religions. The individual demonstrates, openness, inclusiveness, sensitivity, and the ability to interact respectfully with all people and understand individuals' differences.



Dream more!

Program Description:

The goal of this program is to encourage students to attend, and where possible, participate, in special university programs and events as well as attend club/organizations meetings. Students will be exposed to various campus events and gain a better understanding of campus culture. By attending meetings of clubs/organizations on campus, students will be better equipped to make decisions about their personal interests in involvement in the campus community.

Program Requirement #1:

Must choose one of the following organizations and participate in their meetings requirements:

- Student Government Association
- Program Activities Council
- Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Inter-Residence Hall Council
- Hall Council
- Other Clubs and Organizations (Per the approval of the Program Director)

NACE Competencies:

The required meeting attendance of an organization satisfies the following NACE Competencies:

- Critical Thinking/Problem Solving
- Professionalism/Work Ethic
- Career Management
- Oral/Written Communication
- Teamwork/Collaboration
- Leadership



Dream more!

Program Requirement #2:

Must attend 20 events sponsored by the following programs/organizations:

- Residence Hall Programs
- Student Government Association
- Inter-Residence Hall Association
- University Forums
- Hall Councils
- Becoming and Engaged Student Leader
- Western Cultural Connection Series
- Approved Clubs and Organizations

NACE Competencies:

The required attendance of 20 campus events satisfies the following NACE Competencies:

- Oral/ Written Communication
- Global/Intercultural Fluency

Leadership:

A process of social influence, which maximizes the efforts of others, to-wards the achievement of a goal. Leadership is influencing others by your character, humility, and example. It is recognizable when others follow in word and deed without obligation or coercion (Sonny Newman, 2014).



Do more!

Program Description:

The goal of this program is to encourage students to become involved with and to participate in, on/off campus Community Service and other volunteer projects. Students will be exposed to opportunities to grow and develop their compassion for others by working to help local people in need.

Program Requirements:

Participation in **five Community Service hours per semester** with a **minimum of 25 Community Service hours** prior to completion of the program.

Students are free to select from a host of Community Service programs and events including, but not limited to:

- Soup Kitchens
- Campus/Community clean-up
- the Homeless Project
- Clubs Carnival
- Health Fair
- Career Fair
- Western Day of Service
- Other off-campus or on-campus community service approved by the Program Director. Students will also submit to the program coordinator a one page reflection paper on what they learned from the program/event.

NACE Competencies:

The completion of the required 25 hours of Community Service programs satisfies the following NACE Competencies:

- Leadership
- Professionalism/Work Ethic
- Global/Intercultural Fluency
- Teamwork/Collaboration

Compassion:

A holistic understanding of an issue with a commitment to act towards improving the situation (adapted from Dr. Chris Kukk).



Learn more!

Program Description:

The goal of this program is to enhance student's skills in personal and professional career development, to teach students about different leadership styles and how to lead effectively as well as how to work in groups and create a cohesive and successful team. Students will also be able to expand their learning opportunities and develop strategies to support their learning, research, and intellectual discourse, make ethical decisions.

Program Requirements:

Attendance at a **minimum of 15 various workshops** offered by Student Affairs and/or other University departments. Conference/Convention sessions as well as participation in Clubs and Organizations training may also qualify as a workshop, assessed on a case by case basis by the Program Director.

Though programs differ from year to year, below is a list of programs that are offered regularly at WCSU:

- Career Workshops
- Career Exploration and Special Career Events both general and discipline-specific
- GROW Great Resources on Weekdays
- Find Your LeaderShape
- Counseling Workshops
- Academic Workshops
- Increasing Disability Awareness
- Design Your Own Campus Program
- Design Your Own Housing and Residence Life Program
- Health and Wellness Presentations
- The Group Process
- Increasing Mental Health Awareness
- STD Testing and Prevention
- Health Fairs and Mental Health Screenings
- Organizational Leadership
- Ethical Leadership

NACE Competencies:

The completion of the required 15 Leadership Development programs satisfies the following NACE Competencies:

- The competencies will vary with each workshop/program. The competencies be based on each individual workshop/program as determined by the Program Director.



Become more!

Program Description:

The purpose of this program is to encourage students to participate in any of Western Connecticut State University's experiential learning opportunities. This program is designed to provide hands-on, experiential learning in the day-to-day activities that are part of holding leadership positions. Some examples are group activities where participants attack real-world business problems, job rotation and shadowing programs, adventure learning, and virtual or live simulations. These experiences allow leaders to gain new knowledge and skills through hands-on practice in low-risk environments.

Program Requirements:

Must be enrolled in and complete one of the following experiential learning programs:

- Athletics Department Team Captain
- Cooperative Education Internship Program CED 297
- RD – TO – BE
- Certification as a Peer Educator
- Serve as: PAC, NPC, IFC, SGA, IRHA, REC Council President, or President of an organization/club approved by the Program Director(s)
- Service as: On-campus employment as a supervisory role (potential examples but not limited to RA, Campus and Student Center Supervisors, IT&I Managers)

NACE Competencies:

The completion of the required Career Preparation programs satisfies the following NACE Competencies:

- The competencies will vary with each workshop/program. The competencies be based on each individual workshop/program as determined by the Program Director

Creativity:

The ability to transcend traditional ideas, rules, patterns, relationships, or the like, and to create meaningful new ideas, forms, methods, interpretations, etc.; originality, progressiveness, or imagination.



You are a leader!

Reflections:

In order to complete the LCCC program, the student must write a reflection/summary essay of each program, detailing their experience. By the end of the LCCC program, the student will have one reflection/summary essay for each requirement: Campus Engagement, Community Service, Leadership Development, and Career Preparation.

Reflections allow students to think back on their experience immediately and see how it affected them, and how it may influence their future actions. Reflections also serve as a method of assessing all programs in a similar fashion regardless of how their overall concept may vary. Lastly, students will be able to use this information when compiling their capstone presentation upon completion of the four disciplines.

Capstone Presentation:

Once a student has completed all reflection/summaries for each of the four programs, the student must put together a capstone presentation. Creativity is welcomed for this final project and can be done in the following ways:

- Video presentation
- Storyboard
- PowerPoint
- Or any other way that will showcase the student's creativity.

The presentation must include the following:

- What is your personal leadership philosophy and/or definition?
- How has this changed throughout the LCCC experience?
- What have you learned about yourself?
- How will you continue to learn, lead, and serve?
- How has this certificate affected your time at WCSU?
- How has this certificate enhanced your creativity?
- How have you become a more compassionate leader/individual through this certificate?

Students that complete the LCCC program will be invited to the annual Student Leadership Recognition Banquet (SLRB) to be recognized for their achievement. The date for the SLRB will be announced at the end of the fall semester so students have plenty of time to coordinate their schedules if needed. Under special circumstances, accommodations will be made for students who cannot attend the SLRB.

At the SLRB, students will display their capstone presentation and explain how the program influenced them to those attending the SLRB.



For More Information, Contact:

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