

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT LEADERSHIP

ethics ☆ justice ☆ equality ☆ peace
spirituality ☆ fairness ☆ morality ☆ truth
honor ☆ integrity ☆ vision ☆ scholarship
leadership ☆ excellence



Wiley College

Student Affairs and Enrollment Services

THE CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT LEADERSHIP

WILEY COLLEGE | STUDENT AFFAIRS AND ENROLLMENT SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Center for Excellence in Student Leadership at Wiley College was spearheaded by the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services and sanctioned by its Board of Trustees on November 2, 2007 to unify the myriad leadership programs developed and implemented as single initiatives designed to more fully engage students in college life and develop more well-rounded graduates. Wiley College seeks to meet strategically the unique challenges and needs of a diverse community through initiatives that promote student excellence and leadership.

The Center will serve as the administrative hub for twenty-five programs that endeavor to provide a balanced educational experience and advance the connection between spiritual development, academic excellence and purpose-driven leadership. Leadership development is central to the mission of the Center and influences its integrated programmatic approach. The Center provides opportunities for students to gain hands on experience, interact with accomplished practitioners, and apply classroom theory to real-world and conceptual models.

Through its efforts, the Center seeks to cultivate a cadre of ethical, spiritually-centered students who possess the critical knowledge to assume leadership roles in the college setting, in the community-at-large, nationally and globally. A preliminary effort of the Center is to build capacity, identify collaborative partners and create sustainable mechanisms for the expansion and delivery of quality services to the students of Wiley College and community stakeholders.

THE WILEY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

The Center for Excellence in Student Leadership will be housed on the historic campus of Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. Founded in 1873 by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Wiley holds the distinction as being the first accredited Historically Black College west of the Mississippi. Currently, the college is the largest private, four-year liberal arts HBCU institution in the State of Texas. Among its many noteworthy accomplishments, Wiley College is the home of the inspiring story of Dr. Melvin Tolson and the championship debate team featured in the 2007 movie *The Great Debaters* starring and directed by Denzel Washington. Wiley College has had a longstanding commitment to excellence in teaching, advising, scholarship and service.



AT THE CENTER OF WILEY'S FUTURE

The Center for Excellence in Student Leadership is uniquely positioned to play a vital role in the future of Wiley College. Through sound programs, competent staff and intellectually stimulating experiential activities, the Center has quickly become a model that other institutions will want to emulate. The exciting renaissance at Wiley College has set the stage for the eventual goal of expanding the campus infrastructure to include first-class facilities for the Center for Excellence in Student Leadership. The Center envisions the construction of a building to house administrative offices for staff, lecture and seminar rooms, common areas for group meetings, student tutorial lounges, a conference room, a multi-purpose room that can be used for banquets and rehearsals, an office/hospitality room for guest speakers, and a small auditorium, all of which will be supported by state-of-the-art technology and resources, including, Wi-Fi, computers, and a virtual reality/video viewing lab. To accomplish these goals, the Center will endeavor to develop partnerships with individuals, corporations and organizations that share Wiley College's vision.

INTEGRATED APPROACH TO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

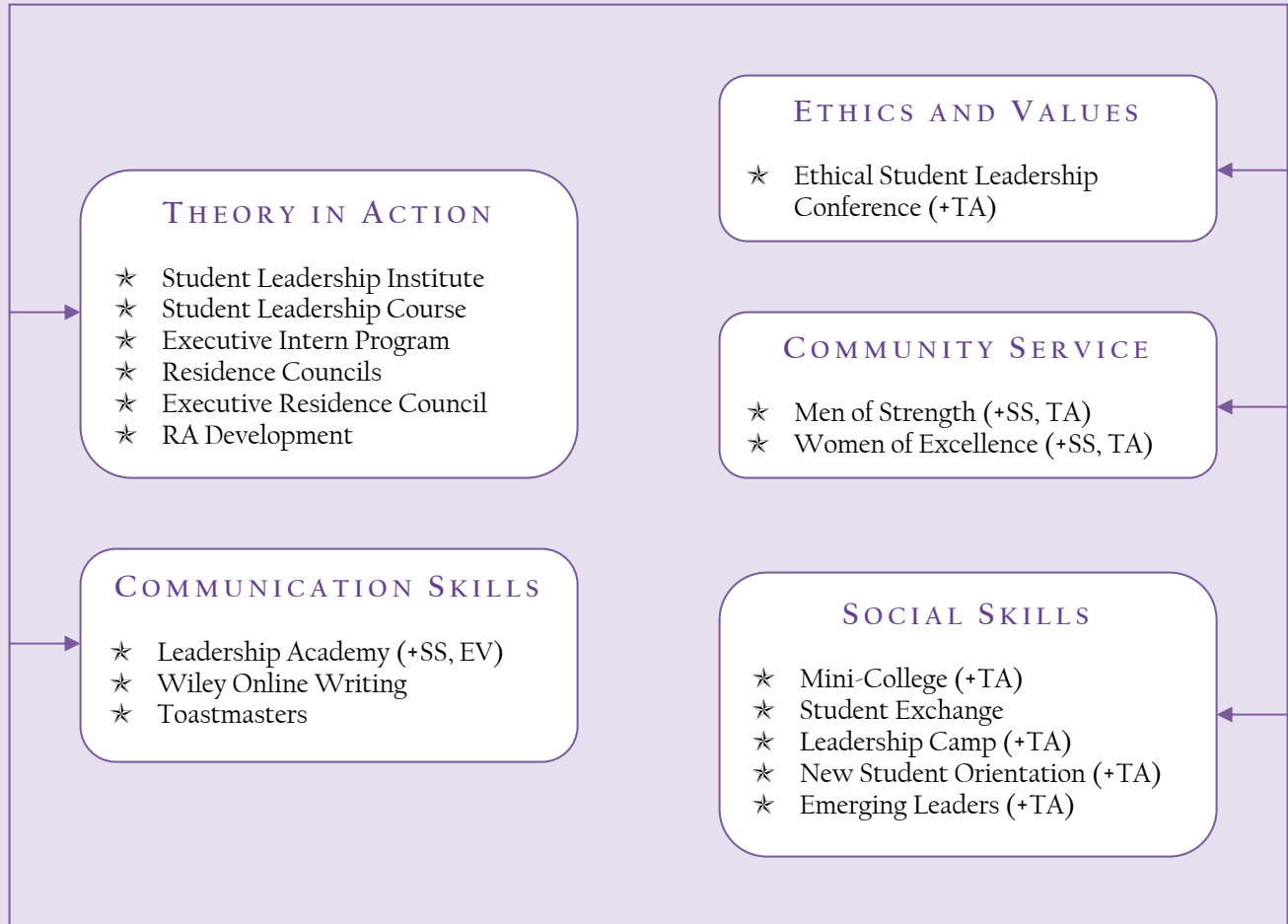
Wiley College's conceptualization of the Center has been guided by the underlying philosophy that student learning takes place through sound, area specific, knowledge-based opportunities to put theory into practice. In particular, it has identified a five-pronged approach to developing effective student leaders through co-curricular experiences. The five categories will enhance and promote the following:

THEORY IN ACTION ★ COMMUNICATION SKILLS
ETHICS AND VALUES ★ COMMUNITY SERVICE ★ SOCIAL SKILLS



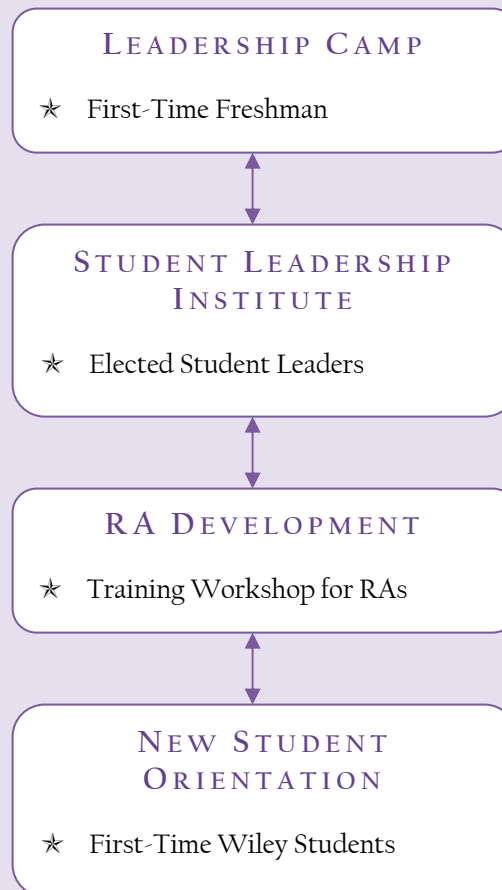
CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS (BY CATEGORIES)



CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP (CONTINUED)

FALL PROGRAMS



CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP (CONTINUED)

SPRING PROGRAMS

ETHICAL STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

- ★ For student leaders from Wiley and other institutions



MEN OF STRENGTH

- ★ For all students with a focus on men

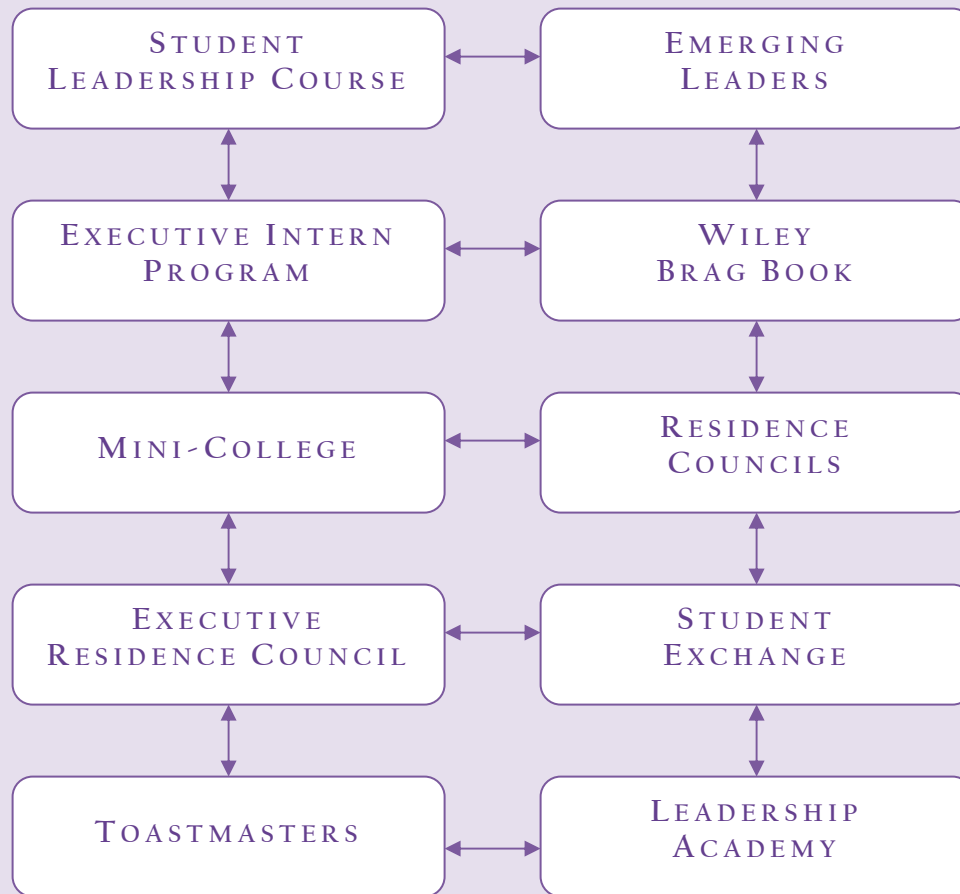


WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

- ★ For all students with a focus on women

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP (CONTINUED)

ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAMS



SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

The Ethical Student Leadership Conference

The Ethical Student Leadership Conference is an intensive three-day event that endeavors to equip participants with an ethical framework for leadership by providing a venue to develop and enhance the quality of student leaders at institutions of higher education. The conference is the programmatic cornerstone of the Center. This annual conference has attracted more than 200 student leaders representing colleges and universities from around the country since 2006. The event offers a forum for interactive plenary sessions, panel discussions and activities that allow students to engage and reflect, in both formal and informal settings. The conference is held annually in the month of January.





Wiley College Leadership Academy

The Wiley College Leadership Academy (WCLA) exists to nurture the development of student leaders by empowering them with the knowledge and skills sets necessary to improve the quality of their lives. The purpose of the WCLA is to enhance the confidence and the skills of a targeted group of junior and senior high school students and to present college as a viable option. The WCLA serves as the umbrella for six separate programmatic components which include two leadership academies as well as programs that relate to community service, spiritual development, mentorship and parental support. The Summer Leadership Academy and the Saturday Leadership Academy programs make available academic support, tutoring and skill development for six weeks in the summer and also during the school year. In addition, emphasis is placed on experiential activities such as field trips and team-building exercises as well as exposure to interesting guest speakers. As part of an effort to build student self-esteem, the WCLA has also adopted uniforms as the standard attire for academy participants. It is envisioned that aspects of the six WCLA programs will be managed as ongoing service projects of campus student organizations such as fraternities or sororities. The Wiley College Leadership Academy has identified thirteen (13) core values, including, academic excellence, accountability, community, competition, etiquette, exposure, family, spirituality, hard work, individualism, oratory skills, service and teamwork. The Center's vision for this program is to develop the next generation of civic, corporate, educational, entrepreneurial, political and spiritual leaders.

Men of Strength

The Center's overarching purpose for the Men of Strength program is to increase retention, foster spiritual development, promote positive images, bolster self-esteem, nurture gender and student leadership development and stimulate academic achievement of male students at Wiley College. The Men of Strength program is an annual week-long event to enhance the spiritual awareness of male students, faculty and staff at Wiley College. Now in its sixth year, this signature program of the Center for Excellence in Student Leadership is a dynamic event that convenes students as well as ministerial, academic and community leaders for a week of special observance. The program also serves as an introduction to the rich history and tradition of Wiley College. The Men of Strength celebration is held annually in the spring semester.





Women of Excellence

The Women of Excellence is a key Center for Excellence in Student Leadership program designed to celebrate and empower female students, faculty and staff at Wiley College. Since 2002, the Center has hosted the annual week-long event to focus on excellence, promote academic achievement and portray positive images. The Women of Excellence schedule includes a convocation, an honoree luncheon, vespers service and a series of forums to discuss issues of importance to women in college and throughout the world. The week of celebration provides a supportive platform to feature state-wide and nationally known women of accomplishment such as authors, media personalities, business, government professionals and other invited speakers that will foster confidence and inspire students to set a high standard of excellence. The Women of Excellence celebration is held annually in the spring semester.

Wiley College Debate Program

An integral and exciting part of the overall plan for the Center for Excellence in Student Leadership is to provide direction for the debate program at Wiley College. The Center seeks to offer a forum for preparation, competition and opportunities to showcase the debate team which was re-established in 2006. As the home of the inspiring story of Dr. Melvin Tolson and the championship debate team featured in the 2007 movie *The Great Debaters*, Wiley College hopes to leverage this unique opportunity to build lasting partnerships with debate programs at colleges and universities throughout the country.



PROGRAMMATIC HIGHLIGHTS

In addition to its signature programs, the Center for Excellence in Student Leadership serves as a central point of reference for co-curricular initiatives that are aligned with its five-pronged approach to leadership development. It is envisioned that participation in Center's programs will strengthen the bond between students and the College. This bond will be sustained through a continuum of programs that accommodate the needs of students at each stage of enrollment. The following programmatic components and initiatives are grouped with one or more of the specific objectives they are intended to accomplish:

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Executive Intern Program

The purpose of the Executive Intern Program is to acquaint student interns with the operations and responsibilities of the Wiley College's chief executives. The paid internship (an in-kind scholarship) is a program in which students earn academic credit for working in one of the five executive offices. Interns participate in executive level meetings such as the President's Advisory Council and Cabinet. The program offers exposure to higher education and public policy-related issues as well as institutional strategic planning, budgeting, financial management and leadership.



Student Leadership Retreat

The Student Leadership Retreat promotes personal growth and intellectual development of students at the College. The annual event targets class officers, resident assistants and campus organizational leaders. The Student Leadership Retreat plenary sessions include topics such as parliamentary procedure, professional etiquette, stress management, dressing for success and other information intended to provide campus leaders with an overview of responsibilities and duties for the upcoming academic year.

Emerging Leaders Program

The Emerging Leaders Program focuses on freshman and sophomore students who have demonstrated leadership potential. This leadership development program meets monthly during the academic year.

Leadership Camp

This three-day annual program provides an opportunity for incoming freshmen to explore and develop leadership potential. This program was initiated in August of 2007.

Student International Exchange Program

The purpose of the Student International Exchange Program is to provide students with a global perspective and exposure to diverse cultures. The ultimate aim of the exchange program is to broaden student experiences and foster better relationships with people of different nationalities. This program is open to the student body and is available during the academic year.



COMMUNICATION ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVES



Wiley Online Writing

The Wiley Online Writing Program is designed to improve student writing skills. The program is offered throughout the academic year.

Wiley Book Bag

The Wiley Book Bag endeavors to improve the reading skills of Wiley College students. This program is offered throughout the academic year.

Toastmasters

The Wiley College Toastmaster's chapter provides training and opportunities for extemporaneous and planned speaking before audiences. This program is based upon the notion that effective communicators become effective leaders. The chapter charter ended in the summer of 2006 and is pending reinstatement.





SPIRITUAL UPLIFT INITIATIVES

The Prayer Hour

The Prayer Hour provides students, faculty, and staff an opportunity to engage in an hour of prayer in the Wiley College Chapel on designated days of the week. This spiritual uplift initiative allows students, through vespers, prayer and meditation, a dedicated time to refocus the heart and mind. During the 2007-2008 academic year, more than 32 volunteers, known as *Prayer Warriors* were available to offer intercessory prayers.

Gathering of Men

The Gathering of Men is an on-campus meeting that provides an opportunity to begin the week in a spiritually focused way and to discuss issues of importance. Initiated in 2007, the Gathering of Men targets male students, faculty and staff at Wiley College. Program participants meet monthly for thirty minutes throughout the academic year.

Tuesday Chapel Service

The Tuesday Chapel Service is a weekly worship service for the spiritual uplift of students and the campus community. The service is open to the student body, faculty and staff. Through this program, students are exposed to a diverse group of ministers who have gained a following because of the power of their scripture-based message.

Mid-Week Bible Study

The purpose of the Mid-Week Bible Study program is to assist residential students in becoming more familiar with the word of God through weekly study sessions. The bible study sessions are conducted by faculty. This program was initiated in 2007.

Sunday Morning Worship Service

The Sunday Morning Worship Service was reinstated in September 2007. This service is open to residential students to provide weekly worship services that promote spiritual growth and provide regular opportunities for fellowship among residential students, faculty and staff.

STUDENT LIFE AND RESIDENCE INITIATIVES

New Student Orientation

The New Student Orientation is intended to assist first-year students in the transition from high school to college and in the navigation of the Wiley College administrative services system. This program is held bi-annually in the fall and spring semesters.

Mini-College Residence Life Program

This Mini-College Residence Life Program is intended to add value to classroom learning by providing one-hour informational sessions that are facilitated by experts in specific subject areas. The sessions are held monthly during the academic year and are open to the entire student body.

Residence Council and Executive Residence Council

The Residence Council was formed to provide students in each residence center with opportunities to serve in elected leadership roles. In addition, the Executive Residence Council is a related organization comprised of the elected presidents of each Residence Council. The Residence Council holds monthly meetings during the academic year. The Executive Residence Council holds its meetings once per semester.

Resident Assistance Development

The Resident Assistance Development (RAD) is a three-day workshop that provides orientation and a refresher course in basic job training skills and outlines specific duties for current and newly appointed resident assistants. The RAD workshops are held annually.





FOR MORE INFORMATION

These are exciting and productive times at Wiley College. We invite you to join the Center for Excellence in Student Leadership as it prepares the next generation of leaders. For more information on the Center, please contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services at 903.927.3233.

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CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

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