

Honors LEAD Program

October, 2005

Title of Program: Honors LEAD Scholars

Description of Program:

I. Overview

A. Admission: open to campus

1. freshmen: linked to admission into Kittredge Honors Program (i.e., those admitted to KHP serve as pool for freshmen applicants to Honors LEAD neighborhood)
2. others: we accept transfers from other LEAD neighborhoods and outside programs (e.g., community colleges)

B. Current Population: 26 full-service students + 3 “affiliates”

C. Overall aims:

1. regular participation/involvement in Honors Program
2. graduation with Latin honors (optional)

II. Program

A. Freshman Year: live/participate in Kittredge Honors RAP (mandatory)

1. small community experience: ca. 125 members, organized in “flocks” of 20-25
2. take first year honors courses in KHP
3. co-curricular activities: flock nights, colloquia, social events
4. leadership opportunity: flock leader (2nd year)

B. Sophomore-Senior Years

1. maintain 3.3 GPA
2. take at least one honors course per semester
3. meet with Honors LEAD mentor at least once per semester

Staffing: one Honors faculty assigned as “mentor” for Honors LEAD neighborhood, 25% time

LEAD Financial Aid: \$26,000 per year plus one time RAP fee for the first year

Some indicators of cost-effectiveness:

Activities/Achievements of Honors LEAD Scholars. Some examples (from query):

- Research Assistant in Boswell Genetics Lab
- Research Assistant in campus physics lab working with ILC (International Linear Collider)
- Research Assistant, Pardi Lab (Chem/Biochem at CU)
- Participant, National Youth Leadership Forum, on Defense, Intelligence, and Diplomacy in Washington DC
- Member, AMSA (American Medical Student Association)
- Recipients of Golden Buffalo Award (GPA-based, from MASP)
- Director of Public Relations, Persian Student Group
- Volunteer student tutor, Columbine Elementary School
- Dancer, Ballet Folklorico de CU
- UCSB Tri-Executive; Author of UCSU-passed resolution asking CU Regents/President to increase funding for LEAD-Alliance in AY 2005-2006; Founder, Underrepresented Student Group Council
- Articles/Creative Works published in Honors Journal, plus work on Honors Journal Editorial Board
- Research Assistant, National Judicial Education Program, Legal Momentum
- Intern, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights
- Chair, Cultural Events Board at CU
- Recipient, Jacob Van Ek Award from Arts and Sciences
- Member, Pi Lambda Chi-Latina Sorority
- Community service: making chemotherapy caps for Children's Hospital
- Volunteer, MACA (Multicultural Access and Community Affairs)

Continued Activities/Achievements of Honors LEAD Scholars after Graduation:

- Law school
- Medical school
- Travels in Asia, working with Women's Rights groups
- Teach for America
- Ph.D. program in Bio Engineering at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Overall Average GPA of Honors LEAD Scholars: 3.46

Dual Role Staffing: Honors LEAD mentor = Honors and KHP faculty

Graduation Rate:

2001 Cohort (only applicable year): 91%
 4th yr: 73%; 4 of those with Honors
 5th yr: 18% (projected)

Retention rate:

2001 Cohort
 1st yr: 91%; lost one to personal issues (withdrew from CU)
 2nd yr: 91%

3rd yr: 91%

4th yr: 91%

2002 Cohort

1st yr: 87.5%; lost one to personal issues (withdrew from CU)

2nd yr: 87.5%

3rd yr: 75%; terminated one for lack of participation

4th yr: 75%

2003 Cohort

1st yr: 86%; lost one to personal issues (withdrew from CU)

2nd yr: 71%; terminated one for lack of participation

3rd yr: 71%

2004 Cohort

1st yr: 83%; lost one to transfer out of CU

2nd yr: 83%

Other measures of success:

Objective:

- in linking admission with KHP, have improved admission rate (and thus have grown program)
- as of AY 2005-2006, have supported staff position for Honors LEAD mentor

Subjective (testimony from Honors LEAD Scholar):

The LEAD Alliance [has given] me a chance to explore so many different ways of getting to know people and issues on campus. Besides this wealth of knowledge and experience, it has also provided a pillar of support: financial support through my scholarship and my job opportunities; academic support through specialized advisors, tutoring programs, people to read my papers, and even informally being able to connect with study buddies; and personal support through opening my eyes to my own identity, and giving the great opportunity to meet wonderful people and ultimately make lifelong friendships.

Critique/Goals of the Program:

1. Improve regular participation in general honors courses
2. Improve sense of community among Honors LEAD Scholars
3. Establish mechanisms for "Peer Mentoring," i.e., elder Honors LEAD Scholars serving as role models and support for younger Honors LEAD Scholars