

NEW Leadership

NEW Leadership Pennsylvania 2011

2011 Dates Coming Soon!

The National Education for Women's (NEW) Leadership Pennsylvania is a part of a national network of NEW Leadership programs developed by the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University. It is an intensive, week-long, residential leadership and public policy institute designed to educate and empower young women for future political participation and leadership. The program addresses the under-representation of women in the political arena by focusing on the role of women in politics and policy making in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

One can easily see that women's presence in national politics is limited, but their scope of political presence in Pennsylvania is even more limited. The Commonwealth ranks among the bottom states in the country with regards to women's political participation and representation. Research and practicality demonstrate that women's involvement in politics makes a difference in bringing different perspectives and priorities to the political arena. Yet, young women are not inspired or convinced that they are part of the political puzzle. A 1999 UCLA study indicated that only 13.9% of college women believe that they can influence the political structure and only 22.8% keep up to date with politics.

The Center is pleased to offer college women the opportunity to learn and to lead through the NEW Leadership Pennsylvania program. Throughout the week-long institute, they interact with women involved in politics, policy, and advocacy and discover how they as young women can influence the world in which they live. The program provides participants with a multitude of opportunities - to gain knowledge, develop skills, and lead through action!

NEW Leadership Pennsylvania is a unique program that opens unlimited windows of possibilities for young women as elected or appointed officials, advocates, community organizers, and business and non-profit leaders. The program breaks apart the political puzzle and demonstrates that each citizen has the means and the responsibility to contribute her piece of the puzzle. NEW Leadership Pennsylvania helps each student to understand the complexity of our political structures and to define how she can contribute to the greater welfare of the entire community through politics and policy making.

NEW Leadership Pennsylvania is preparation for tomorrow! It is a yearlong program, which begins with an intensive weeklong residential institute held at Chatham University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The 2011 dates are coming soon! The program is designed using a five-part curriculum, which includes:

- teaching students about the diversity of women's historical and contemporary participation in politics and policymaking

- exploring leadership in a diverse society
- connecting students with women leaders making a difference in the public and private sphere
- building leadership skills
- practicing leadership through action

The foundation of the program is the week-long residential institute that provides students with a learning environment in which they learn from both practitioners and scholars inside the world of politics and policy making. Students engage in hands on experiences throughout the week and participate in thought provoking discussions. An exciting component of NEW Leadership Pennsylvania is the Practitioner in Residence (PIR). Two or three political women - elected officials or community activists - serve as advisors for the program living in residence and sharing meals with the students throughout the week. PIRs are available to students to provide advice and insights on an informal basis.

Following the summer institute, students return to their home campuses to develop and implement a leadership project to serve the campus and/or local community. Faculty and staff advisors from the students' college/university also participate in the summer residential institute and then oversee the development and implementation of the leadership projects in coordination with the Center. The projects allow NEW Leadership Pennsylvania participants to immediately utilize the knowledge and skills they acquired during the summer institute and practice active citizenship!

The Pennsylvania Center for Women, Politics, and Public Policy at Chatham University has sponsored the NEW Leadership Pennsylvania program since 2000. Colleges and universities throughout the Commonwealth select and send participants to this annual leadership program. If you are a student or college administrator interested in the program, but are not sure you are at a participating institution, please contact us!