

October 27, 2006.

Leadership Institute

Dear President Christ

Further to the ideas I offered at the session on Women of Promise last week, I would like to add that in order to train more Smith students to become leaders, I believe there needs to be in place a formalized, systematic mechanism that encourages and nurtures students to aspire to leadership. I believe it would add much value to a Smith education, and attract more donors and gifts, for us proactively to prepare students for leadership beyond college in a comprehensive, extensive and consolidated way. Besides, society needs more women in leadership roles across all endeavors in life with leadership here defined in its broadest sense.

In order to achieve a higher rate of leadership preparedness at Smith – attainable through cohesive and on-going leadership training – students will need to be nurtured toward this end so that they believe in themselves and see their potential and raise their sights. I believe this will be accomplished only through a high-profile institutionalized effort that is grounded in a physical “Leadership Institute” center. This could include speakers and panels as well as programs such as public-speaking training and presentations, and community initiatives.

Maximum inclusion, to honor our egalitarian mission, can be provided through making it known to students that leadership is available and attainable, and that Smith has a route to achieve it. Some liberal arts colleges I visited, that are featured in the book "Colleges That Change Lives," have such programs or institutes for those students who do aspire to leadership and wish to acquire the skills. Most students, in my experience, do not see their potential and need to be made aware of it, and then guided towards their greatest fulfillment.

The following list includes some of the ways Smith already offers what could be seen as leadership-related training albeit in an unconnected manner not necessarily defined as leadership. I am not suggesting this list constitutes a compatible whole, or that any one listing necessarily fits the leadership mold, but only that it could be a starting point for conceptualizing around promoting leadership more vigorously as a mission goal for Smith.

Perhaps there is a major donor who would fund the expansion of the Kahn Institute into a Leadership Institute that incorporates elements from the list below. Research being central to scholarship and the kind of leadership we can foster, the Kahn Institute strikes me as the perhaps an ideal place from where to grow a Leadership Institute.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these ideas and I hope they make a helpful contribution to your Way Forward initiative.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Andrew

EXISTING LEADERSHIP-RELATED “TRAINING” AT SMITH

Blumberg Traveling Research Fellowships & Presentations

Collaborations Research & Presentations

Fellowships Program

First Group Scholars

Graduate School Advising & Top U.K. Fellowships

Honors Thesis Research & Oral Presentations

Jacobson Center Public Speaking Course

Jahnige Social Science Research Center

JYA Returning Student Presentations

Kahn Institute

Lewis Leadership Program

Mellon Mays Minority Fellowships

Leadership Seminars by Nancy Harvin for Admissions, CDO, and ESS grad students

Outdoor Adventure Program

Praxis Internships

Pre-Orientation Leadership Program

Presentations Skills Workshops by Merylyn Lewis

Public Policy Program

Residential Life Student Leader Training

Senior Design Clinic Presentations

Service Organizations of Smith

Special Studies & Project Presentations

Stride Scholarships

Student Government Association

Women and Financial Independence Program

Women and Social Change Project