Collegiate Leadership Competition

Program Summary

Thanks to the Animator’s grant, the Office of Student Involvement was able to challenge and grow the leadership skills of our Collegiate Leadership Competition team. Our team was built of six, primarily female identifying sophomore students. In preparation for the competition weekend, our team had ten practices, led by two students and one staff coach. These practices were challenging as students had to learn leadership terms and concepts as well as participate in hands-on challenges to demonstrate what leadership styles and skills they were learning throughout the process. The curriculum allowed students to not only learn about themselves but understand how to work with other unique leadership styles and collaboratively work through challenges such as riddles, building giant paper cranes, or even how to stack Pringles into a standing circular figure.

After the ten practices concluded, our six students and three coaches traveled to Miami University in Oxford, OH **April 12-13th, 2019** for competition weekend. Our Xavier team participated in a reception on the Friday evening to meet the other competing schools and hear about all the competition weekend would involve. On Saturday morning, the competition weekend kicked off and our team participated in six challenges throughout the course of the day. These challenges were timed and evaluated by a judge and reviewer who assessed the challenges’ leader (one team member was assigned to lead each challenge) and the team as a whole in the way in which they approached and worked through each challenge round.

After a long day of six challenges, we were thrilled to find out Xavier came in fourth place overall. This was an excellent result, considering it was our first time competing. As well as this, we broke the CLC record for scoring the highest on knowing terms and concepts. Judge’s feedback was all positive and they were overall extremely impressed by the way in which Xavier’s team and coaches represented themselves and our university.

Through the competition weekend, practices and overall whole experience our team of students were able to challenge themselves, learn their strengths, excel in teamwork and build their confidence. This unique programs gave them the opportunity to evaluate their leadership skills critically in hands-on activities, ultimately leading them to a clearer understanding of what leadership truly means.