



LEADING WITH INTEGRITY

LeaderShape comes to Qatar

Six days of non-stop self-discovery and learning from practical experiences that build leadership concepts and abilities. It's go, go, go for more than 12 hours a day... and students love it.

This is LeaderShape.

Fifty-nine students from universities in Qatar attended the first international LeaderShape experience at Al Sultan Beach Resort in Al Khor over spring break. Organizing the first LeaderShape outside of the United States was the initiative of Dave Stanfield, director of student activities at Carnegie Mellon Qatar.

"I realized there was no formal leadership development for students in Education City," says Stanfield. "Having been through LeaderShape as an undergraduate I felt it would be a great asset to students in Doha."

Based in Champagne, Illinois, The LeaderShape Institute is an interactive, energizing and unique experience that builds leadership skills. The non-profit organization seeks to improve society by

inspiring, developing and supporting young people who are committed to leading with integrity.



Founded in 1986, more than 25,000 students at colleges and universities in the United States have graduated from the program. LeaderShape director Kristen Young says she was thrilled when Stanfield contacted the organization last year about bringing the program to Doha for the Spring 2007 term.

"Our mission is to develop more young adults to lead with integrity," she says. "Ideally we want every young adult to go through the program, no matter where they live."

Knowing that Stanfield was familiar with LeaderShape and was willing to head it up helped make the decision to offer the program to students in Doha easy, Young says.

Stanfield worked closely with Qatar Foundation and the other universities in Doha to open the program up to all local students. The program was even endorsed by Sheika Mozah bint Nasser Al Missned, wife of the Emir and chairperson of Qatar Foundation.

Students were equally excited once they learned about the program. Those who were interested in attending had to go through a selection process that included writing two essays. Sixty-five students were selected out of a pool of many more and 59 accepted.

Joining nearly 20 students from Carnegie Mellon Qatar were students from Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, College of North Atlantic - Qatar and Qatar University.

"I applied because I thought it would be a fun and different ap-



Students from Carnegie Mellon Qatar spent six days at Al Sultan Beach Resort in Al Khor as part of the first international LeaderShape, which was sponsored in part by RasGas.

proach to learning," says Lina Menshawy (Tepper 2008).

Yasmine Abdelrahman (Tepper 2008) says she wanted to apply because having an expert perspective on leadership would help her become a better leader on campus.

Stanfield says he was pleasantly surprised at how excited everyone was about the program. He hopes students who aren't involved in activities outside of the classroom will be encouraged to take on leadership roles. And that those who are involved in activities will further develop their leadership skills.

The activities schedule for LeaderShape is exactly the same as the one that is used in the U.S. by more than 70 colleges and universities each year. Day one is about "building community." This means exploring what leadership means and discussing its core components. Students are split into groups called "Family Clusters" that serve as their primary reference group for the week.

Day two focuses on "The value of one: the power of all." Team-building activities and build-

ing relationships through trust are the thrust of this day.

Day three is called "challenging what is: looking to what could be." This has students work on developing their own vision for the future which defines a bold change for the community, group or cause back home.

"Leadership involves living in a state of possibility, making a commitment to a vision, developing relationships to move the vision into action and sustaining a high level of integrity."

Bringing vision to reality is the focus of day four. On this day students learn how to take dreams and turn them into actions. The issue of power is explored on this day in a dynamic group simulation exercise.

Living and leading with integrity makes up day five. Integrity is central to LeaderShape's philosophy of lifelong leaders. On this day students discuss core ethical values, thoughtful decisions and courage.

The last day is all about

staying in action. As they prepare to head home students learn what it means to be part of the LeaderShape community, which is a network of mutual encouragement and support. A learning community commencement ceremony wraps up the week.

All activities are lead by LeaderShape facilitators, who are all volunteers. Young, who went through LeaderShape as an undergraduate, says there are 130 trained facilitators in the U.S., and finding a few to come to Qatar was quite easy.

She says more than 4,000 students in the U.S. will graduate from LeaderShape this year alone. Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh has never hosted a LeaderShape event on campus but a few students have attended LeaderShape events that are open to many schools.

"It's amazing to see the learning that occurs in students when they are challenged for six straight days," Young says. "Before this program, a lot of young people don't know they can change. But once they leave they know they can make a big impact on their community and on the world." □