



Unleashing the leadership potential of Illinois youth.



Unleashing Youth Leadership Potential

“ILS taught me that leadership isn’t all about guiding others. Leadership is about learning to better yourself in order to help others. Be caring, generous, and thoughtful and open to new ideas and people. By doing so, you will help others come out of their comfort zones and accomplish their goals. Most importantly, ILS has given me the environment of people believing in me and supporting me on my road to success.”

-Ayana, 2010 Niles North High School



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WE NEED YOUTH LEADERS

Illinois Leadership Seminars fills an extraordinary need that exists for high school students in Illinois that is currently not being adequately met by schools, communities or governments.

WHY DOES ILS EXIST?

According to a Gallup Student Poll, merely 34 percent of students in grades 5-12 are hopeful, engaged, and thriving. More alarming is that only 53% are classified as “hopeful” based on their responses to a series of questions about their goals and aspirations at school and for the future. The rest of students are “stuck” (31%) or “discouraged” (16%).

Our future leaders are currently facing new and difficult social and economic challenges. These individuals are already choosing careers and making decisions about their future. In just a few years, they will be electing government leaders, perhaps becoming government leaders themselves, and making important decisions about our future.

We want to recognize students who are making a difference and reward them for continued interest in becoming the leaders of tomorrow.

MISSION

Our mission is to unleash the leadership potential of Illinois youth.



Illinois Leadership Seminars exists to make a difference and teach life-long leadership skills to high school students in Illinois who demonstrate a spark of leadership. We encourage leadership development by:

- Providing the essential tools and skills for leadership development
- Exposing students to a broad spectrum of views and opinions
- Creating an open and inclusive environment in which thoughts and ideas may be freely exchanged
- Instilling an appreciation for the diversity of the world
- Providing on-going support through our alumni group, volunteers and other opportunities

WHAT IS ILS?

Illinois Leadership Seminars is a non-profit 501(C)(3) organization that is driven to unleash the leadership potential of Illinois youth. Guidance counselors and principals select students from all over Illinois who have demonstrated leadership ability and talent. Nominated students participate in high-energy seminars consisting of workshops and activities designed to elicit:

- individual self-discovery
- the awareness of differences in others
- how to lead through challenging social issues.

Leaders participate in team-building activities, community service, a talent show, small group discussions; listen to motivational speakers and panels of key leaders from various industries and much more.



We encourage leadership development through emphasis on personal responsibility, volunteerism, increased awareness of social and community issues, and an open-minded analysis of all sides of an issue when making decisions.



Thanks to sponsorship from concerned businesses and individuals, these programs are offered at no cost to the student or the school. In a current economic environment where schools are experiencing reduced budgets, ILS awards future leaders with a life changing experience.

PROVEN RESULTS

At ILS, we measure and track the impact we are having on youth leaders in an effort to monitor the success of programming for continuous improvement and to stay current with changing youth leadership topics and issues. We clearly impact youth lives and are proud to have a:

- 45 base point increase in knowing who they are as leaders
- 35 base point increase in public speaking confidence
- 93% of alumni are more willing to make decisions and be responsible for the effects of those decisions
- 99% began to think about new career possibilities
- 71% have received awards for school or community service
- 70% are interested in careers in business, industry, law or the health sciences

99% of 2011 students felt confident in their ability to lead.



THE FUTURE OF ILS

ILS is a life-changing event for today's future leaders. In upcoming years, ILS hopes to increase the number of students chosen for this opportunity and to expand into under-represented areas of Illinois. Additionally, we would like to offer a continuum of leadership development offerings to our program's alums. We want to reduce and eliminate the "stuck" feelings students experience and Illinois businesses fear about the future generation.



HELP US UNLEASH ILLINOIS YOUTH

Illinois Leadership Seminars programming will continue to be successful if we receive the business and community support necessary to continue to conduct these programs.

Please contact us about fundraising events, corporate sponsorship or individual donations today!

www.illinoisleadershipseminars.org