

## Emerging Leaders Certificate

This leadership certificate is for students interested in 1) exploring and expanding their understanding of leadership and 2) practicing their leadership skills through community service. Students will gain an understanding of the Leadership Spectrum and community impact when participating in this program.

### **What knowledge, skills and/or abilities should a student have after completed this program?**

Students will develop an understanding of leadership and their self-understanding within the leadership lens. Additionally, students will develop the following [NACE Career Readiness Competencies](#): 1) critical thinking / problem solving skills, 2) leadership skills, 3) teamwork/collaboration, 4) global/intercultural fluency, and 5) oral & written communication skills in relation to leadership. Lastly, students will have the opportunity to practice teamwork and collaboration throughout this program by participating in community service – an experiential learning activity.

We hope students are inspired to:

- see themselves as a leader,
- continue to develop their leadership potential,
- engage in further self-exploration of their strengths,
- feel empowered to make a positive difference on campus and in the various communities to which they belong!

### **Certificate Requirements:**

1. Learning
2. Service
3. Meaning Making
4. Acceptance of Certificate

## Program Overview

### ***Requirement 1: Learning Options***

#### **Please choose one track:**

#### ***Track 1***

##### **A. Complete the Advocate for Community Engagement (ACE) Program.**

The ACE Program stands for Advocates for Community Engagement. When you enter this program, you are fully immersed in leadership development and the world of community service. This year long, cohort style course explores the principles of effective leadership within the context of social change initiatives.

Through the lens of John C. Maxwell's "21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership," students will examine how these laws apply to leading transformative efforts aimed at addressing societal challenges. Through experiential learning activities, experiences, and real-world projects, students will develop practical leadership skills for effecting positive social change. This class also partners with local Non-Profits and businesses for students to gain valuable insight and volunteer hours on real world experiences.

Students choose which Non-profit to volunteer with and have a capstone project of how to develop the organization forward. Students will also be expected to complete 25 hours per semester of community service, which is 50 hours total to complete the program. Registration will open every Fall semester!

## Or

### **Track 2**

#### **B. Attend 10 leadership workshops / speaker events:**

- The workshops are asynchronous LEAD Workshops, or leadership workshops, through MyLynx, sponsored by other departments on campus. Experiences must be a minimum of an hour in length and connect to leadership or a skill that effective leaders need to develop. These workshops are offered on the [Student Life Youtube Channel](#). You can also find more workshops via MyLynx and the Calendar.
  - Want to know if an option will count? Check with Jodyanna Gallegos, Coordinator for Leadership Education and Community Engagement, [Jodyanna.gallegos@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Jodyanna.gallegos@ucdenver.edu)
- Please fill out the verification forms. **Please be advised, filling out this verification form is proof you have attended the workshop!** All verification forms can be found in MyLynx in the Leadership & Community Engagement Program page or in the description of the video.

### **Requirement 2: Community Engagement**

Complete at least 20 hours of community service at a non-profit agency of your choice or multiple community service opportunities on or off campus.

- Students are expected to fulfill all hours at one agency or multiple community service opportunities. Our hope is that you learn about the agency's mission, the clients they serve, challenges they face carrying out their mission, and how they make a difference.
  - If you have completed the ACE Program, your 25 hours per semester of service for that program will count toward your total hours for the certificate.
- Submit hours in detail in MyLynx through the Leadership & Community Service Program Service Tab in your Profile Icon.

- Students may also use this [Personal Service Tracker](#) to help keep their hours in order before they submit onto MyLynx. Instructions are included in the Excel Sheet.
- Need help finding a place to serve? A Community Engagement & Leadership Ambassador can meet with you to discuss your interests ([volunteer@ucdenver.edu](mailto:volunteer@ucdenver.edu))
  - Or you can search for opportunities through Spark The Change Colorado (a volunteer search engine).
- Have questions about what counts as community service? Please see this [news article](#) for more information!

*Did you know? You can earn a Presidential Award for community service? Check out the [President's Volunteer Service Award](#)! We, at CU Denver, are partnered with PVSA! In 2003, the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation founded the President's Volunteer Service Award to recognize the important role of volunteers in America's strength and national identity. This award honors individuals whose service positively impacts communities in every corner of the nation and inspires those around them to take action, too. For more information, please email [volunteer@ucdenver.edu](mailto:volunteer@ucdenver.edu).*

### **Requirement 3: Meaning Making: Choose 1**

#### **Option 1: Reflection Paper**

To complete the Emerging Leader Certificate students will submit a written reflection paper (1-2 pages at length).

#### **Option 2: Reflection Presentation**

You can create a 4-slide presentation video. When you have completed your paper or presentation, please email it to Jodyanna Gallegos, Coordinator for Leadership Education and Community Engagement, ([jodyanna.gallegos@ucdenver.edu](mailto:jodyanna.gallegos@ucdenver.edu)).

#### **These must be mentioned in your paper or presentation.**

- *Learning:* Discuss the impact of what you learned.
  - Briefly describe what you learned in the workshops/Ace Program/Leadership Conference(s) sessions.
- *Experiential Learning:* Discuss the impact of volunteering with a non-profit agency or other volunteer experiences.
  - Describe the agency you worked with (what is their mission/purpose and who do they serve?) and what you did during your volunteer experience.
  - How did leadership emerge over the course your volunteer experience (on your part and/or on the part of others)?

- How did the experience help you better understand the organization's vision, mission, and goals? What does it reveal to you about the relationship between this organization and those it serves? What does it suggest about how this relationship might be improved?
- *Meaning Making*: Reflect on what you have learned through your overall experience (structured and experiential learning).
  - What did you specifically learn that you will carry forward in your life?
  - How will you apply your leadership learning in your future career and personal life? (Areas to consider: student organizations, the classroom, workplace, family, community, etc.)

## Acceptance of Certificate

Once you have completed and submitted your materials, Student Life & Campus Community will generate your completion certificate.

Students finishing during a fall semester may pick up their certificate from the Student Life office (303 Tivoli) or elect to receive it at the Milo Student Leadership Awards program in the Spring (typically hosted in April). ***Please allow two weeks for the certificate to be printed.***