Greetings Huskie Leaders!

It’s hard to believe that the spring semester is already underway! I hope your semester is off to a good start and that your break proved to be relaxing, fun, and reinvigorating!

Our Leadership team has been busier than ever! This academic year, we have had more students join the Leadership Academy than ever before – to date, we have a whopping total of 120 students in the Leadership Academy! This semester, we plan to offer a variety of workshops to meet the needs of these students and students beyond the Academy. While we will continue to implement our Leadership 101 workshop and General Meetings, we will also offer leadership workshop topics such as Exploring Leadership Styles, Professional vs. Personal Leadership, Finding your Voice, and more. Additionally, we will continue to offer our monthly Student Organization workshops in order to best serve the needs of our student organizations on campus.

Within this eNewsletter, you will have the opportunity to learn more about how to set goals in college, reasons why you should get involved, how NIU Cares Day can benefit you and the community, and much more. You also will be able to learn more about our featured student leader and organization in our spotlight section.

If you have questions, don’t hesitate to connect with me at klance@niu.edu or 815-753-6505. Please stop and see us in room 150 of the Campus Life Building. We look forward to working with you!

Happy reading!

Kelli Lance
Pucino Leadership Series

YOU
ON YOUR
best day.

Calling all junior, senior, and graduate students!

This event is open to ALL majors.

This is a Leadership Academy event and is eligible for Business Passport credit.

Learn 35 secret weapons to be at your best and most successful every day.

Presenter Michael Allosso has traveled the world with his “You On Your Best Day” program and has won a number of top speaker awards. He has served on the faculty of five colleges, has directed professional live theater productions and both short and feature films, and has appeared as an actor on stage and on screen.

Tuesday, March 1, 2016
5 to 6 p.m. Check-in, Welcome & Refreshments
6 to 8 p.m. Program
Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center, NIU

For more information, call 815-753-5088. Registration is required at go.niu.edu/pucino
The Leadership Academy is committed to enhancing students’ self-awareness, preparing students to have a positive impact at NIU and the greater community, developing students’ leadership skills to enhance their future personal and career success, and fostering connections between students and the University.

JOIN THE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY TODAY!

Are you looking to get involved on campus and within the DeKalb community? Are you interested in gaining personal and professional leadership skills? Do you want to attend workshops and events led by outstanding speakers from the campus and community who are eager to share their wealth of knowledge with you? If so, then join the Leadership Academy today! If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about the program, please contact us or visit our website at www.leadershipacademy.niu.edu.

To apply to the Leadership Academy, visit: www.leadershipacademyapp.niu.edu
Student Spotlight: Clint Summerfelt

What does leadership mean to you?
Leadership means having the will not only to lead those around you to success, but also to inspire them to be leaders within their own lives. You're not just taking charge of a situation, but instead shaping the outcome in a way that benefits the most people. Being a leader is developing the skills to successfully solve the problem at hand both quickly and efficiently while keeping in mind the ideals of those working with you.

How has being involved enhanced your experience at NIU?
Being involved in clubs and intramural sports on campus has really helped me to develop a solid friend group and meet lots of interesting and smart individuals. It has also helped me network as far as job searching goes as well as learn about the vastly hidden opportunities such as internship workshops and study groups across campus.

What has been your favorite NIU experience?
My favorite NIU experience was my time spent volunteering at Kite Fest. It really gave me a chance to work with others who genuinely cared about helping make the fair run as smoothly as possible. Plus, it gave me the chance to work with kids, making their days more fun, as well as seeing lots of cool vintage Ford cars.

What are your life goals and how will you achieve them?
I dream of working as the head of the design group for a major competitive automotive manufacturer or perhaps for a racing company. I want to have a career that allows me to challenge myself and learn everyday as well as put my hands and creativity to good use. This can only be attained by finishing my Mechanical Engineering degree here at NIU and getting my foot in the door with major companies through internships and networking.

Student Organization Spotlight

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TED Talks videos and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection. Since TEDxNIU has been established at Northern Illinois University, they have taken the campus by storm!

Join TEDxNIU!

When: The 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 8:30 P.M.
Where: Campus Life Building 110 (Honors Smart Classroom)
Tips on Setting College Goals

By Kelci Lynn Lucier

Having goals in college can be a great way to stay focused, motivate yourself, and keep your priorities in order when things get stressful and overwhelming. But just how can you set your college goals in a way that sets you up for success?

Be specific with your goals. Instead of "Do better in Chemistry," set your goal as "Earn at least a B in Chemistry this term." Or better yet: "Study at least an hour a day, attend one group study session a week, and go to office hours once a week, all so that I can earn a B in Chemistry this term." Being as specific as possible while setting your goals can help make your goals as realistic as possible.

Be realistic with your goals. Spend some time thinking about what makes sense for you as a learner, as a student, and as a person. If you're not a morning person, for example, setting the goal of waking up at 6:00 a.m. every morning to hit the gym is probably not realistic. But setting the goal of getting in a good workout after your Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoon Shakespeare class probably is.

Think about your personal and intellectual strengths. Setting goals can be challenging for even the most driven college students. If you set yourself up to do things that are a bit too challenging, however, you can end up setting yourself up for failure instead of success. Spend some time thinking about your own personal and intellectual strengths. Use your strong organization skills, for example, to create a time management system so you stop pulling all-nighters every time you have a paper due.
NIU Cares Day is a day when students, faculty, and staff come together to show their appreciation to the City of DeKalb by taking on various service events in the community.

The 10th Annual NIU Cares Day will take place on **Saturday, April 16, 2016**. NIU volunteers travel to locations around DeKalb County to spend the day planting, painting, cleaning, sorting, assisting with events, and various other tasks as needed by not-for-profit organizations and community agencies.

This is a huge campus event which generally gathers more than 1000 NIU volunteers. NIU Cares Day is a great opportunity for students to not only get involved on campus, but the event also gives students an opportunity to learn more about their community.

Students can register to volunteer as a group or can register individually and make new friends! Volunteer registration for NIU Cares Day 2016 will occur in waves, starting with Team Leader registration in February 2016 and Team Member/Individual registration in March 2016. In order for an organization or group to appear on the roster featured on the registration page, a Team Leader MUST attend an orientation session to register the group's name.

Volunteer teams should contain no more than 10 people and must designate one individual to serve as the Team Leader (the leader and primary contact person for the team). For larger organizations, there is a maximum of three teams per organization and 10 members per team (30 total per organization). Some team ideas include a student organization, residence hall floor, a study group, group of friends, carpool crew, and/or co-workers.

For more information visit [http://niucaresday.niu.edu](http://niucaresday.niu.edu)

Some organizations that NIU has cared for in past years include:

- Salvation Army
- YMCA
- Opportunity House
- DeKalb Park District
- St. Jude's Research Hospital
- Family Service Agency
Reasons to Get Involved in College

By: Andrew Hunzeker from educationquest.org

1. **Learn new things.** Every experience you have builds on what you already know. Being involved is one way to learn outside of the classroom. You get a chance to put yourself into problem-solving situations or try something “hands on.” There are so many ways to get involved, and each has something different that it brings to the table.

2. **Build your resume.** Your resume is something that should constantly be improved by the diverse things you do in life. Work is one way to build a resume, but activities and organizations can also demonstrate what you have to offer to future employers.

3. **Increase scholarship opportunities.** Scholarships can play an important part in paying for college. The more prospects you have for scholarships, the higher probability of earning a type of financial aid that you don’t have to pay back. Clubs, organizations, and activities sometimes have scholarships tied into them. If not, your activities will be helpful when completing scholarship applications.

4. **Develop stronger personal skills.** A person changes and grows with each new experience. Getting involved might provide the chance to take on a leadership role in an organization or club. Even if you don’t have a leadership position, you would learn key teamwork strategies.

5. **Meet new people.** This is one of the most important reasons to get involved. You have the chance to meet so many new people from various cultures and with different perspectives. All the people you encounter in activities and organizations have traits you can learn from.

Getting Involved at NIU: The Huskie Way

At NIU, there are over 300 student organizations available for you to join! If NIU does not offer a club that you are interested in, you have the resources and support to create it. For more information regarding NIU student organizations, visit www.huskie.link.niu.edu.

**Types of Organizations at NIU**
- Academic and professional
- Community service
- Diversity and cultural
- Greek life
- Honorary societies
- Political and military
- Programming and performing
- Recreational and sports clubs
- Religious groups
- Governing bodies

Join a club, like the NIU Hockey Club, today!!
Calendar of Events: Spring 2016

FEBRUARY
2/18/16 Leadership Academy Workshop: Exploring Leadership Styles-Leadership 201 at 3pm & 6pm in CLB 100
2/23/16 Student Organization Workshop: Executive Board Workshop at 6pm in CLB 100

MARCH
3/1/16 Pucino Leadership Series: You on Your Best Day at 6pm in Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center
3/3/16 Leadership Academy Workshop: Leadership 101 at 5pm in CLB 100
3/7/16 Leadership Academy General Meeting at 5pm in CLB 100
3/22/16 Leadership Academy Workshop: Professional v. Personal Leadership at 3pm & 6pm in CLB 100
3/24/16 Student Organization Workshop: Working with Difficult People at 12pm in CLB 100

APRIL
4/5/16 Leadership Academy Workshop: Finding Your Voice at 3pm & 6pm in CLB 100
4/7/16 Leadership Academy General Meeting at 6pm in CLB 100
4/11/16 Leadership Academy Workshop: Leadership 101 at 12pm in CLB 100
4/18/16 Student Organization Workshop: Dealing with Transition in Organizations at 3pm in CLB 100
4/24/16 Kevin D. Knight Leadership Awards at 1pm in Holmes Student Center Duke Ellington Ballroom
4/27/16 Leadership Academy Workshop: Leadership 101 at 9am in CLB 100

MAY
5/4/16 Leadership Academy General Meeting at 2pm in CLB 100

For more information, visit www.leadershipevents.niu.edu
Kelli has been serving in the Assistant Director for Leadership & Student Organizational Services role since October 2013. Before obtaining her position in SILD, she served as the Professional Development & Operations Coordinator in the Vice President’s office in Student Affairs & Enrollment Management.

Kelli has thoroughly enjoyed her role in SILD, particularly because she is able to work directly with students and witness first-hand how their leadership skills improve throughout their time at NIU.

Mary Kate is the Graduate Assistant for Leadership & Student Organizational Services. She has been in the role since July 2015. Mary Kate previously attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she studied Psychology and Spanish and worked as a Counseling Center Paraprofessional and Resident Advisor.

Mary Kate is in her second semester of the College of Education’s Counseling Program and aspires to have a career in school counseling upon graduation.