Introducing 
Iowa N.E.W. Leadership

Iowa N.E.W. Leadership is an intensive 5-day residential institute designed to further develop young women's public leadership skills, support their engagement in civic life, and create opportunities for them to build relationships with women involved in public leadership on the local, state, and national level. Developed by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University in 1991, the non-partisan program has been so effective that it is now conducted at 23 universities nationwide. As an organization and as part of the University, the Women’s Resource and Action Center (WRAC) is invested in offering this challenge to young women.

The goals of the program include:

- Increasing representation and participation of women at all levels of public leadership, including the non-profit sector, community leadership, and elected office
- Challenging participants to look at politics and public policy through a critical lens
- Engaging participants in the legislative process as a citizen and advocate early in their careers

Although Iowa can be proud of its long-held commitment to women’s higher education, it remains among four states that have never sent a woman to the U.S. House; Iowa has never elected a woman as Governor. Here at the University of Iowa, only 5 women have served as Student Government President since 1988. 3 of these 5 women elected President are INL alumnae. This year, women were elected to serve as UI President and Vice President; both are INL alumnae.

- Women represent 51% of the U.S. population, yet account for less than 25% of the country’s elected officials.
- Of the 535 members of the 114th U.S. Congress, only 104 (19.4%) are women.
- Of those, only 33 are women of color, and only 7 are openly LGBTQ identified.
- Across the country, only 25% of state legislators are women. In Iowa, only 23% are women.

Our progress toward equity can be dramatically accelerated through the early education and support of women in their academic and professional lives. Iowa N.E.W. Leadership helps young women and their communities take a strong first step towards accomplishing real parity.

In order to maintain the program’s non-partisan integrity, commitment to diversity, and financial accessibility, WRAC offers this program to participants at no cost to them.

At the Summer Institute, you will:

- Learn about the historical and contemporary participation of women in politics.
- Consider the role of conflict and collaboration in the public sphere.
- Build skills necessary to empower yourself and others in a diverse society.
- Develop valuable relationships with women leaders from across Iowa.
- Explore the influence of public policy while discovering your powers of advocacy.
- Connect with women leaders, scholars & mentors
- Join a network of past, current, and future women leaders who share a commitment to shaping the public agenda and making a difference in their communities.

Who is eligible?

- Any student identifying as a woman who is enrolled in any Iowa college or university for the 2016-2017 academic year, or who are Iowa residents enrolled in out-of-state colleges.
- Students in all fields of study are welcome.
- Women of color, diverse backgrounds, identities & life experiences, and non-traditional students are strongly encouraged to apply.

NOMINATION DEADLINE JANUARY 27, 2017
APPLICATION DEADLINE FEBRUARY 17, 2017

For more information, please contact

Program Coordinator, Iowa N.E.W. Leadership
wrac-newleadership@uiowa.edu or 319.335.1486
Application and nomination materials are available at http://wrac.uiowa.edu/
Iowa N.E.W. Leadership’s Alumnae say...

“I wouldn’t trade my experience with the N.E.W. Leadership program for anything. Outside of making connections and friends, I grew as a person, and developed the skills and the desire to be actively involved in politics.”

“I have an interest in politics and being actively involved on a different, higher level than before. I was exposed to so many new and challenging processes, but almost all were empowering experiences.”

“Motivation. Empowerment. Knowledge. Experience. Appreciation and respect. I’ve never been to a conference where I’ve really walked away with more than free stuff.”

“N.E.W. Leadership gave me confidence in my ability to lead. Not only for future political positions, but the current leadership posts I have and am striving for in my career. It created a real desire to know more about the world and to help change it.”

Iowa N.E.W. Leadership is a state-wide Institute open to all women pursuing higher education degrees in any academic discipline.

The Women’s Resource & Action Center is proud to acknowledge the academic institutions from which our alumnae come. In addition to a strong number of students from the University of Iowa, Iowa N.E.W. Leadership has had participants from the following:

- Cornell College
- Grinnell College
- DMACC
- Luther College
- University of Northern Iowa
- Iowa State University
- Kirkwood Community College
- St. Ambrose University
- Dordt College
- Grandview University
- Muscatine Community College
- Simpson College
- AIB College of Business
- Augustana College
- Brown University
- Buena Vista University
- Central College
- Coe College
- Loras College
- Marshalltown Community College
- Morningside College
- Mt. Mercy College
- Northeast Iowa Community College
- Waldorf College
- Wartburg College
- William Penn University

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