Students picked for 10-week Leadership America program

By Denise Affolter
Lantern staff writer

Two OSU students have been selected to participate in Leadership America, a program aimed at helping students become well-rounded leaders for the future.

Parul Kapadia, a junior from Upper Arlington majoring in pre-medical psychology, and Bill Bien, a junior from Westerville majoring in economics and Chinese, will participate with 48 other college students from across the country in the 10 week, all-expense-paid program sponsored by the International Leadership Center in Dallas.

Ohio State and Harvard are the only schools with the distinction of sending two representatives to the program, said Stan Altschuler, executive director of Leadership America.

Starting June 9, Kapadia and Bien will first travel to Greensboro, N.C., to participate in programs to assess their strengths and weaknesses.

From Greensboro, they will go to the Rocky Mountains for a one week executive development course conducted by Outward Bound of Colorado.

A three week seminar at the International Leadership Center will complete the first half of the program. Experts in the fields of technology, global interrelationships, ethics and leadership will address the students.

The second half of the program will include a four week internship at a location of the student's choice and a week in Washington, D.C., for a final evaluation of the program.

Parul Kapadia

Bien said he has already been notified of his internship, which will be at Marada Business Machines of Japan. Kapadia said she hopes to intern in Geneva, Switzerland at the World Health Organization.

Kapadia said she became interested in Leadership America after being nominated by an OSU administrator. Previously she was unaware of the organization.

She said she is looking forward to meeting and forming lasting networks with the other students.

Bien said he has always been involved in leadership activities, including being a member of the Ohio Staters and the OSU Rugby Club.

He said he hopes to gain a better understanding of the trends affecting the United States for the next 20 to 30 years.

"I want to learn other issues and gain some substance to become a better leader," Bien said.