Leadership seminar aids freshmen

Ohio State outlines opportunities available in student organizations

By Briggan Wrinkle
Lantern Staff writer

Fifty freshmen attended Leadership Ohio State, a one-day seminar to encourage leadership throughout a college career and into the future.

"We would like to start at the ground level to build up some interest and excitement about student activities and organizations, particularly those who have been under-represented," said Don Wasing, a member of the Leadership Ohio State Steering Committee.

This was the first leadership seminar of its kind, Wasing said. It was supported by a university Affirmative Action Grant and organized by the six upper-class honor societies.

The Affirmative Action grant was for $6,845 and additional funds were provided by the University Honors Program. The 50 selected freshmen were able to attend at no charge.

Thirty percent of the 50 participating freshmen had to be black or Hispanic, according to the terms in the grant, said Michelle Molano, a co-chairman for the Leadership Ohio State Steering Committee.

"WE HAD A representative group that attended the conference: two Hispanics, 13 blacks, 10 commuters, four students from the regional campuses, 30 women, and 20 men," said Mabel Freeman, assistant director of University Honors Program.

The seminar lasted from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday. Forty-six out of 50 selected freshmen attended the seminar.

The day consisted of workshops given by a variety of speakers including Victor Benacchini, assistant dean of student life at Indiana University; Ruth Gresham, special assistant to the Office of Human Relations and Mac Stewart and Betty Jo Hudson, associate deans in the University College.

"We will be doing some unique and creative workshops for students," Wasing said.

OSU President Edward H. Jennings welcomed and congratulated the freshmen attending the seminar during lunch.

THE KEYNOTE speaker was James Crupi, president of the International Leadership Center in Dallas. He said leadership in the year 2000 will be very different from what it is today.

One out of three workers in America in the year 2000 will be a native born minority, he said.

"We had all types of leadership being presented by the speakers and a lot of important issues discussed," Freeman said.

We are trying to give freshmen, especially minorities, the chance to be informed about all the opportunities available to them at Ohio State, said Jill Delany, a member of the Leadership Ohio State Steering Committee.

Applications to attend the seminar were available to freshmen in college offices, the Office of Minority Affairs, the Office of Community Student Affairs, regional campuses and residence hall desks.

"WE WORKED hard at getting the word out through the freshman channels," Wasing said.

Applicants for Leadership Ohio State were selected on students' past records of involvement in leadership activities, service to the community, and academic performance, Molano said.

There will be some follow-up programming for the students who did attend Leadership Ohio State. The first will be a group evaluation of the seminar and goal setting of what they would like to know more about, Freeman said.

Another session this quarter will include various leaders from student organizations to familiarize freshmen with the purposes and objectives of different organizations. A specific date for this session has not been set, she said.

Spring quarter these freshmen will be matched with a faculty administrator and a student leader to talk about leadership and what role leadership has played in their lives, she said.

"THIS PROGRAM is a pilot program, the question now is 'Are there some other offices on this campus that deal with all students that can pick up some of the costs in order to continue this program in the future,'" Freeman said.
Program seeks leaders
Minorities wanted for leadership seminar

By Mary R. Hale
Lantern campus reporter

The Leadership Ohio State Program is looking for a few good freshmen.

"The program is open to all freshmen and we strongly encourage minority students to apply," said Public Relations Chairman Willie Wong.

Fifty freshmen will be selected for the program this year. Last year about 30 percent of the students were minorities, Wong said.

"The students selected will be a cross section of the university," he said. "We're looking for people with leadership potential."

Last year was the first year the program was in effect.

The program was created in an effort to develop leadership on campus among freshmen, especially minorities," said Kevin Taylor, co-chair of the program.

Taylor said approximately 60 students applied last year. The organization expects at least 70 applications this year because of the positive response from the students last year, he said. The deadline for applications was Monday.

The first workshop is set for Jan. 27. Betty Siegel of Kennesaw College will be the main speaker, Wong said. Other speakers include: Columbus City Councilman Ben Espy, Dean of Student Life Vic Boschini, Special Assistant to the OSU President Barbie Tootle, and Dean of Student Life Rich Hollingsworth.

Follow-up programs will be planned after the initial program, Taylor said.

"We want to have programs for these students continue through their senior year," Taylor said. "The students that were freshmen last year are still involved in the program as a sophomore this year."

He said different issues are presented to the two classes of students because they are dealing with different stages in college.

"We want to meet the needs of the students in their particular year of school," Taylor said.

Last year the program was funded by an affirmative action grant. He said because the grant was good for one year, the Honors House is sponsoring the program this year.

Leadership Ohio State is a special program of the class honoring, which include Mortar Board, Sphinx, Bucket and Dipper, Chimes, Mirrors and Komophoa. A representative from each honorary resides on the officer team, Wong said.