



Leadership Institute for First-Timers (L.I.F.T)

*UN-MASKING YOUR POTENTIAL:
FINDING THE LEADER IN WU*

Saturday, February 20, 2021

L.I.F.T Conference

The Leadership Institute for First-Timers (L.I.F.T), is a one-day student leadership conference developed to provide new and continuing student leaders at Winthrop University with a professional development experience. This conference enables students to connect with one another, gain leadership skills, and learn more about themselves. A collaborative effort of a student planning and the Office of Student Activities planned and implemented the conference. Remember to unmask your potential and find the leader in WU!

Conference Schedule

REGISTRATION & REFRESHMENTS

9:00am - 9:30am

Richardson Ballroom Lobby

OPENING & KEYNOTE SPEAKER

9:30am - 10:40am

Richardson Ballroom

SESSION 1 - CONCURRENT

10:50am - 11:40am

Richardson, Dina's Place, & Kinard Auditorium

SESSION 2 - CONCURRENT

11:50am - 12:40pm

Dina's Place, Kinard Auditorium & Owens G01/02

LUNCH

12:45pm - 1:20pm

Richardson Ballroom

LUNCH ACTIVITY

1:20pm - 1:35pm

Richardson Ballroom

SESSION 3 - CONCURRENT

1:45pm - 2:35pm

Dina's Place, Kinard Auditorium & Owens G01/02

CLOSING, WRAP-UP, & EVALUATIONS

2:35pm

Richardson Ballroom

L.I.F.T 2021 Keynote Speaker

Summer Owens

Richardson Ballroom

9:30am - 10:40am



Author, speaker, and certified S.O. What! Success Coach, Summer Owens is the founder and CEO of S.O. What! and the S.O. What! Foundation where she teaches resiliency, leadership and inspires people to eliminate excuses and overcome obstacles to their success.

For 15 years she enjoyed a career as a marketing executive for the NBA Memphis Grizzlies, ServiceMaster and FedEx which she left after discovering her purpose. Publishing her memoir, *Life After Birth- A Memoir of Survival and Success as a Teenage Mother*, led her to devoting her life to helping others live their best lives. Her story has been featured internationally on media outlets including CNN HLN and the 700 Club.

Summer serves on several non-profit boards and is president of the University of Memphis National Alumni Association Board of Directors. She has received several honors including the Women of Achievement Heroism award, Women of Excellence award, and the Memphis Business Journal's Top 40 Under 40 honor. A magna cum laude graduate with both her bachelor and masters degrees, Summer earned the three highest honors at her alma mater— Miss University of Memphis, Outstanding Young Alumna for the Fogleman College of Business and Economics, and the Distinguished Alumna Award. However, her greatest honor is using her life's challenges and victories to help others achieve success in spite of their own obstacles.

The Unlikely Leader: From Imposter to Impactful

Do you find yourself in a leadership position, yet feel like maybe you're an imposter? Leading, but not sure where you're going or what you're doing?

It's hard to lead when others doubt you or when you doubt yourself. Many before you have valiantly stepped up to the plate, dealt with the doubters, and made an impact. You can do it, too.

You might be new to leadership or nervous that everyone will realize you don't have all the answers. You might feel unprepared or not fit the role of an ideal student leader.

From this moving presentation, you will learn how to turn judgement and self-doubt into positive catalysts for impactful leadership. You will examine your abilities and your motivation for leadership. You will identify how your unique challenges and experiences will make you stand out as a leader on campus and for life.

This inspiring program provides a blueprint you and fellow student leaders can use to become more confident leaders who build confidence in others and make a meaningful impact.

Session 1 (10:50am - 11:40am)

The Resiliency Resolution

Richardson Ballroom

Summer Owens

Let's face it, life is hard for many people. Especially right now. Students face challenges of all types, from personal to academic, private or pandemic, and everything in between. Some challenges are inherited and some are created, but dealing with the stress and anxiety and overcoming the obstacles may seem impossible. Too often this causes many students to give up or not fulfill their potential. Summer Owens has a system to overcome even the greatest obstacles.

This program helps students examine their situations and recognize the power they have over their challenges and choices. Through her personal story and practical strategies, audience members can apply immediately. Summer demonstrates the power of a mindset that can turn giving up into standing out with world-class resilience.

Career Readiness and Leadership

Dina's Place

Dean Kaetrena Kendrick, M.L.S.

Keatrena Kendrick, Dean of Ida Jane Dacus Library and Louise Pettus Archives & Special Collections, will be discussing about Career Readiness and Leadership. Students participating in this session will learn about available tools to help research potential employers and careers fields. We will also discuss how employers use your digital archiving/branding (social media) in the hiring process.

Step Up To The Line

Kinard Auditorium

Shaniya Simmons & Erin Emiroglu

Students will have the opportunity to learn how personal values influence a group, recognize that their personal values will be the basis for their leadership, and gain an understanding of value-based actions. The group activity allows participants to think about their values and express them to others.

Session 2 (11:50am - 12:40pm)

Networking and Leadership

Owens G02

Ashley Ravenell, M.Ed.

Ashley Ravenell will discuss the purpose and benefits of networking for professional development, along with job seeking and common/uncommon ways to do so.

Non-Positional Leadership

Owens G01

Tommy Ray Davis

In our journey to develop one's leadership capabilities, we find that there is no shortage of positions that need to be filled by people who are able to do the job. Although there is an abundance of major positions and responsibilities, everyone does not get the opportunity to hold such positions or are not "qualified" to handle the rigorous prestige of these roles. But, does that make an individual unworthy of becoming an A-List leader? Does not possessing an exec position make a person incapable of making a considerable difference in an organization's overall success? In this session, we will be unpacking these common misconceptions as well as examining what it takes to be an effective leader without the title. In other words, we will be discussing the wonders of Non-Positional Leadership.

Who Are You? Leadership & Identity

Dina's Place

Gabrielle Kelly

Let's talk about the importance of knowing yourself, and how knowing yourself directly affects your leadership skills. We will address the different leadership skills and how your identity can lead you into one leadership style rather than another. Discovering your identity can also require sensitive self-evaluation. With this presentation, we will dive into how facing insecurities and comparing your old self to your new self can be toxic in finding your identity.

Session 2 Cont. (11:50am - 12:40pm)

Helping Others Un-Mask Their Full Potential Kinard Aud.

Justin Rose & Amore Evans

As student leaders of organizations, in order to be successful in leading an organization, it is important to utilize the strengths and capabilities of those that you lead. In doing so, you are helping those individuals to reach their full potential. In this session, we will break down the practical steps of how student leaders can help their members reach their full potential and thrive within those organizations.

Session 3 (1:45pm - 2:35pm)

Accessible Leadership

Owens G01

Alexandra Hathaway

Leadership is something that as a person with disabilities, I've always found difficult to find spaces for myself in. This presentation will focus around prominent leaders with disabilities, as well as lessons learned from their drive and determination in the face of adversity. We can draw lessons that are learnable from people such as Ed Roberts, Judy Heumann, and Rebecca Cokely.

Positional Leadership 101

Dina's Place

Brandon Jackson

Winthrop produces a lot of student leaders that hold various positions within their on campus student organization(s). This topic will discuss ways to be an effective leader within your leadership position, how to guide and lead others, and most importantly, how to maintain your momentum and avoid burnout.

Session 3 Cont. (1:45pm - 2:35pm)

The Pursuit of Happiness

Kinard Auditorium

Niageria Bey

This presentation will explain how to reach your fullest potential and identify the things, people, jobs, etc. that can hold you back from reaching new heights. This presentation will incorporate activities and that will make the participants reflect on their goals and spark inspiration to go after their dreams.

Who's Under the Mask?

Owens G02

Quest Morris

One of the biggest concerns of student leaders is the engagement level within their respective organizations. Does it seem like your members lack motivation or the willingness to work? Does it seem like public interest is lackluster? Using author and student development theorist T.J. Sullivan's work "Motivating the Middle" we will explore what it is, who's in it and ways that you can ignite that motivation in your members.

L.I.F.T 2021 Committee Members



***Isaac Smith*
Senior, Mass
Communication**



***Niageria Bey*
Senior, Athletic
Training**



***Ravyn Cunningham*
Senior, Political
Science**



***Calvin Dash*
Junior, History**



***Qui'Ashia Pringle*
Junior, Business
Administration**



***Zaniya Waiters*
Junior, Biology**

Special Thanks To:

L.I.F.T Presenters
Division of Student Affairs

L.I.F.T Volunteers
DiGiorgio Campus Center Staff