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JMU Student Leadership Center

Placement Description

Dux is Latin for “leadership”. We strive to be the premier source of assistance to students wanting to develop leadership abilities. We offer workshops, conferences, books, video equipment, consulting assistance, and partnerships to further the development of leadership skills in any way possible. We want students to have the desire to grow, lead, and inspire.

Field Placement Responsibilities/Opportunities

- Assistance with departmental/instructional research related to leadership practices, growth mindset, and personal growth
- Assist in efforts for recognition of leadership offerings around campus (marketing and branding)
- Assist with functions related to Dux Leadership Center administration
- Development and presentation of programs related to leadership within specific identities
- Development and presentation of outreach opportunities with university support services and department
- Assist in implementation of leadership conferences

Contact Information

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Read about students' experiences at this site below:



Spring 2021 – Becky DeVille

The JMU Student Leadership Center (SLC) is an office on-campus dedicated to helping students develop into stronger, more effective leaders. They offer many leadership development programs on campus, including MYMOM, Everyone Can Lead, Strengths Coaching, Leadership in Action, and many others. Additionally, they provide many resources for students, staff, and organizations on campus who are looking to enhance the development of leadership on campus, including online databases, partnerships, consultation, physical equipment, and leadership trainings. The mission of the SLC is to develop the desire to grow, lead, and inspire within JMU students. Staff at the SLC consists of two coordinators, Michael McCleve (the one and only AND the founder of the SLC!) and Carson Lonett, as well as graduate assistants, and several undergraduate student team members.

The opportunities at the SLC are truly endless. The SLC operates on a leader-leader model of functioning, in which delegation of tasks is almost non-existent. Instead, each individual in the SLC is seen as an equal, and as such, they are able to initiate the tasks that they would like to pursue/what interests them the most with guidance and assistance from supervisors only when necessary. This allows for the Field Placement experience here to be extremely self-directed, and it can be shaped into whatever you are looking for. Some opportunities that I was able to pursue at the SLC included re-evaluating and updating content on the website, assisting in marketing and implementation of the Everyone Can Lead program for developing leaders, participating in and becoming trained in Strengths Coaching, working to design a short video series on leadership, and also resurrecting a podcast video series, #IMadeMyMark, which highlights the experiences and impacts of JMU seniors. However, everyone's experience within the SLC will differ, and is not limited to the programs that I participated in, as everyone has different interests, abilities, and things that they can contribute! Whenever I was struggling to find something to engage in, Mr. McCleve was also extremely helpful in finding directions that best suited me.

Overall, the SLC is a hidden gem on campus (or, at least it was for me). Though I was nervous because it was not my initial choice for a Field Placement site, my time spent there quickly became the highlight of my semester! A major advantage to working in the SLC is that it is a fully adaptable experience that is able to shift based upon individual interests, wants, and needs. Additionally, the staff at the SLC are such uplifting, creative, and driven people. They are very passionate about spreading awareness of the SLC, as well as developing everyone into the best possible leader and version of themselves they can be. It is great to get to know the other staff while sitting and working in the office and through weekly staff meetings. Mr. McCleve is also an incredible resource, as he is easy to talk to and extremely knowledgeable about all things leadership (and life). There is a heavy emphasis on Strengths Psychology as it relates to leadership within the SLC, which can be an advantage for those looking to work in a counseling-related field. Finally, since the SLC is located on campus, in Madison Union, it is extremely accessible and easy to plan when you will be in the office getting hours around your class schedule and other commitments.



The biggest takeaway that I have gained from working in the SLC is becoming much more self-motivated, which will apply in all aspects of my future endeavors. It was difficult and frustrating to adapt to the leader-leader style of leadership at first (which could be considered a disadvantage), because every other job or organization that I have been involved in has had a top-down structure, in which I was told which tasks to complete and when. However, in the leader-leader style of working, I found it to be so much more rewarding when I accomplished tasks, because I felt like they were things that really mattered to me or that I was excited about producing a final product for. In the future, I will definitely take with me the attitude of doing things for me, as well as not having the fear to take initiative on projects or changes that I would like to see implemented. Additionally, I will be able to uplift others as leaders by assisting them in using their talents and strengths, listening to their stories, and allowing them to pursue their passions, rather than dictating tasks to them if I am ever in a leadership role.

Overall, the JMU Student Leadership Center is a fantastic Field Placement site, especially for those who would like to challenge themselves to become a better leader, as well as a better version of themselves. It allows for personal growth, decision making tailored to one's own interests, and has an incredible staff of people who will support you along the way!

Fall 2020– Hayley Kell

I chose to complete my Fieldwork experience at the Student Leadership Center, formerly known as the Dux Leadership Center, at JMU. This Center, located inside Madison Union, strives to provide the JMU community with resources and programs that allow growth and education about leadership skills. Their mission for 2020 is “Through virtual presentations, 1:1 personalized coaching, or customized leadership programs, the Student Leadership Center is here to help students develop their skills to be more confident leaders.” The Center is a mix of professional and student staff, with a majority being students. Their programs are usually one-on-one workshops to help you gain leadership skills and a better understanding of yourself so you can be a better person and a better leader. The resources consist of books, videos, employee consultants, and programs. Currently, they provide Strengths Coaching, Leadership Coaching, Conversation Coaching, Make your Mark on Madison (MYMOM), and Everyone Can Lead program. All “coaching” programs are one-on-one with a LEAD consultant. Strengths Coaching helps you to learn about your personal traits and to be a better version of yourself, Leadership Coaching helps you build on your leadership skills while learning about resources, and Conversation Coaching helps you tackle difficult conversations and how you should go about them. The longer programs are MYMOM and Everyone Can Lead. For Make Your Mark on Madison, you work with a group for the semester to create a difference on campus while learning about your leadership skills and how to effectively work with others to create change. Finally, the Everyone Can Lead program allows you to explore leadership styles both within a traditional leadership role and in everyday life. I was lucky enough to experience the Strengths Coaching, Leadership Coaching, and Everyone Can Lead program for emerging leaders first-hand.

During my time at the Student Leadership Center (SLC), I was offered a lot of autonomy to create and produce new projects. I helped with the Center's administration work, created new



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resources, produced and edited presentations, took part in multiple program opportunities, provided feedback on projects, worked on a task force, and assisted with outreach programming and strategies. The staff at SLC wants you to take advantage of what they have to offer so I suggest you do. Before I began working at SLC, I was asked about my interests and then given a rundown of the Center. From there, I was asked about what I would like to work on or what I thought might be the best use of my time. I expressed asked to participate in any areas of the office I can so I could learn a little bit about everything. The Center's care for me and my interests made the experience feel less like work and since my interests are in teen mental health and leadership abilities, I was given the opportunity to involve myself in the programs and worked less on administrative tasks.

You must go through training to facilitate and consult on the one-on-one programs therefore I did not host a coaching session. However, I did get to participate in a workshop for myself where I gained a lot of critical information about my personal leadership style and skills. With each project, I collaborated with a new member of the staff or a team of people which helped me learn more about the SLC staff and get to know them better in addition to working with them. Weekly staff meetings kept us in the loop of the other peoples' work and ongoing programs which allowed us to offer our insight, edits, or an extra hand. I also completed tasks on my own, which mostly consisted of research for either my own interest and education or for information regarding a project. This especially applied to my work with the new Social Justice Initiative Task Force where I would research on my own and then collaborate and discuss it with the task force to help build and generate the new mission of this committee. I also had a weekly meeting with my supervisor. He does this with all the staff, so you have designated time to catch him up on your work, ask questions, and pitch ideas. Because most of the work is being done by trained staff, I would be brought on as an extra set of hands or a fresh pair of eyes. You will not be assigned anything, in particular, so you need to volunteer to help or express interest in ongoing or upcoming programs to get in your 80 hours.

I enjoyed the workplace atmosphere a lot. Even though all my work was done remotely, there is always an opportunity for collaboration and innovation, but any work can also be done alone. The Student Leadership Center strives to create and foster intent-based leadership which, in its simplest form, means allowing people to lead themselves and others without giving them explicit instructions to do so. This requires knowing the ins and outs of the office in order to take the responsibility for your work while allowing input from others to help you succeed. The office has a great balance of personal and professional interactions and working with peers was a huge bonus for me. I enjoy working with students my own age and because the Center is meant for students, it puts SLC at an advantage to have student staff providing and creating these programs, projects, and resources. They are connected to students through their work. In addition, the push to promote intent-based leadership allows a harmonious work environment where you can contribute on all levels and collaborate to take projects to the next step. I learned more about myself and my leadership skills and styles than I did about working in a professional environment. So, I took a lot with me after my time at the Center, but I did not gain what I believe is a common workplace experience because of the extreme independence and peer collaboration. This may be due to my idea of a corporate environment, which does not apply to the Student Leadership Center – they are far from corporate life in the best way. Overall, I



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thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Student Leadership Center and I highly recommend considering them as a fieldwork placement.