

Siegel Institute Welcomes Center for Student Leadership Staff in House 55

CSL's Assistant Director and Coordinator of Leadership Programs enhance undergraduate students' leadership skills from new location

By Karen Pressley and Whitney Keller

(July 24, 2009) Now with its third location on campus, the Center for Student Leadership has established its newest offices at the Siegel Institute for Leadership, Ethics & Character in House 55 on Campus Loop Road. Rian Satterwhite, Assistant Director for Leadership Programs, heads up the CSL offices at the Siegel Institute. Program Coordinator Wes Riddle administrates leadership programs for undergraduate students, and KSU student Josh Hunt serves as an administrative assistant to the House 55 CSL team.

With the purpose to promote and encourage ethical leadership and development of Kennesaw State University's undergraduates, CSL wants students to be active on campus as well as within the community. This new office will have a more programmatic aspect as it widens the availability and space for programming.

While the Siegel Institute focuses on initiatives for KSU graduate students, and CSL focuses on undergraduates, their missions align. "The relationship will allow CSL to offer more opportunities to students to see how leadership impacts others and the influence a leader can have," Riddle said. "Since the Siegel Institute's work is known around the country, it will allow CSL's students to have a bigger stage on which to stand."

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CSL's current objectives include the creation of an extensive Foundations document that will serve to build the framework for programs within CSL. "If a teacher plans to educate their class holistically, they should also include out-of-class experiences. Leadership is an integral part of student development and the two should go hand-in-hand," Riddle said. "This would be beneficial and help the students to become better-rounded."

Rian Satterwhite completed his Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies degree specializing in Leadership at the University of Arizona. He is now an inaugural member and graduate with distinction of a four-year leadership development program at UAZ, the "Blue Chip" program. While starting a partner leadership program at the University of Wollongong in Australia, he completed a master's degree in Educational Leadership. He is completing the Graduate Certificate in Leadership & Ethics from the Siegel Institute, Summer 2009. "The certificate was an effective and practical program that allowed me to focus on integrating ethics into ongoing leadership development efforts in my workplace," Satterwhite said.

Wes Riddle is a tenure-track faculty member in University Studies teaching in the Leadership Studies concentration along with an outdoor recreation course in the HPS Department. Wes currently oversees the Northwest Crescent Leadership Alliance, a collaborative program among colleges in northwest Georgia; Nature Bound, an outdoor organization that builds character through outdoor experiences; and the Laedan program, which allows students to get outside the classroom to put leadership theories to practice. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from the University of South Carolina Aiken in 2003, and a master's degree in Education from the University of Georgia in 2005. He is also completing the Graduate Certificate in Ethics and Leadership from the Siegel Institute, Summer 2009.

Under the leadership of Brian Wooten, Director, CSL is a unit of both Academic Affairs and Student Success and Enrollment Services with main offices in the Student Center. Room 172 houses the Director, the Assistant Director for Operations, Program Coordinator for Civic Engagement and administrative assistants. The leadership library, student social space and computer lab are also located there. The University College houses CSL's Technology Coordinator and his assistant, who work in conjunction with University College as a dual-report.

The Siegel Institute supports Kennesaw State University's campus-wide efforts to prepare ethical leaders who can meet the challenges of increasing global awareness, technological literacy, diversity, integrity, and lifelong learning. "We're pleased to have this CSL team at the Siegel Institute," Dr. Dorothy Zinsmeister, Interim Executive Director, said. She recently invited the KSU Graduate Student Association to take offices within House 55, and is working with the GSA to launch a Graduate Student Leadership Experience. "We hope to see undergraduates who have completed CSL's leadership programs transition to graduate school at KSU, join the GSA, and enroll in our Graduate Certificate for Leadership & Ethics."

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