



Suggested Student Selection Criteria and Process

Our goal is to reach female college students who may not have had an opportunity for focused leadership development. We want to reach beyond the “front row” of obvious leaders to women who have high potential but need experiences and support to develop that potential. We ask you to consider your students with a creative eye—an eye for potential as well as readiness for this kind of experience.

The ideal student for this program is a rising sophomore or junior. Diversity is important to this program—diversity in all its aspects. We ask that you consider students individually, but also as a “team” of three who bring diversity as one of their contributions to this program. Diversity encompasses race and ethnicity, major and career interest, personality, socio-economic status, geographic region, rural/urban/suburban community, and religion.

Selection Criteria

- Rising sophomore or junior female from Alabama, currently enrolled in an Alabama college or university
- High potential for leadership either because of personal skills and/or strong passion and concern for others that compels them toward leadership
- Academically capable and willing to be challenged
- Ready and committed to full participation in the process—including committing to the time involved in the Summer Institute (**June 13-19, 2011**), Fall Connection: Leadership Action and Winter Summit and Celebration (**February 27-28, 2012**).
- An awareness of leadership skills or issues that make them ready for this experience
- Capacity to engage responsibly with different ideas and opinions

Selection Process

Keeping in mind that the Leading Edge Institute is the *only* program of this kind in the United States, it is likely that you will identify more than three interested candidates. We recommend that you develop an application and selection process appropriate to your campus. Some campuses interview candidates or ask them to write an essay to determine the best fit. We are looking for potential and engaged awareness, and recommend that you ask them about their definitions of leadership, leadership challenges they see ahead, their own skills for leadership, what they would like to experience to develop their capacity, as well as their willingness to make a nine-month commitment as a representative of the institution. Most institutions select an alternate delegate in the event that one of the original three has to back out before the Summer Institute.

Student Information Form and Contract

Once selected each student will need to complete the Student Information Form and Contract by **April 15, 2011** which can be found on our website at www.leadingedgeinst.org. You may want to include a consequence to apply in the event that the student does not keep her commitment. This would reinforce the idea that she is making a commitment to the Leading Edge Institute but also to the institution.