The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
To decrease stigma surrounding drug addiction, there must be a conversation discussing addiction medically and socially. Medically, addiction has to be addressed as a disease that requires treatment. It must be understood socially that addiction is not a poor choice people make, and is difficult to discuss and acknowledge for various reasons.
Why this topic?

- OD deaths of Rutgers students
- National heroin epidemic
- Stigma makes asking for help difficult
Research

- Feminist
- Academic
- Journals
Theme: Personal Narratives

- Personify addiction
- Define own realities; self-actualize
- Proves anyone can have addiction
- Create policy change
Theme: Gender

- Differences: physical, psychological, social
- Need privacy and safety
- Public health policy designed for few, not accessible to all
Theme: Feminist Approach

- Language
- “Plant seeds of empowerment” (Turner)
- Help those who seek help
- Advocate for others
- Respect all
- Be active in your community
Lessons Learned: Social Justice-based Women’s Leadership

- Design
- Research
- Collaboration
- Empathy
Goals: reduce stigma of addiction & centralize community conversation

- Candles
- Moment of silence
- Names read
- Personal narrative
- Hope for future
- Services available
Francine Glaser, left
Senator Joe Vitale, above
Linda Surks, right
Overdose Vigil
In honor of students, alumni, and loved ones who have lost their battle with any addiction

October 21, 2014  8:30pm - 9:30pm

Brower Commons Steps
College Avenue Campus, Rutgers New Brunswick

This event is sponsored by the Institute for Women's Leadership and Rutgers Health Services.
Incognito Lives: Sensations of Addiction

Goal: make addiction a story and more relatable

Darkness symbolism:
- fear of ridicule
- candidness
- anyone can suffer
- safety
Dim lighting, candles on

Lights out, candles on
Insights on Stigma

- People do not want to hurt each other
- Changed attitudes will decrease stigma
Thank you!

Elizabeth Amaya-Fernandez
Didem Aksoy
Frank Greenagel, Jr.
Institute for Women’s Leadership
Lisa Laitman
Rutgers Health Services
State Senator Joe Vitale
Linda Surks
Dean Schuster and Office of School Arts and Sciences


