The We Will LEAD Conference
Social Action Project by: Antoinette Gingerelli
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](http://iwl.rutgers.edu).
WOMEN IN POLITICS: THE CURRENT NUMBERS

National

- 19.4% of Congress women (104 of 535 members)
- Of the 104 women, 33 identify as women of color
  - 6.2% of Congress women of color

State

- 24.4% of state legislators (1,805 of 7,383 state legislators)
- Currently only 6 women governors

Municipal

- Of the 262 of the 1,361 mayors of U.S. cities with populations 30,000 are women (19.3%)
- 19 of the 100 largest cities in the U.S have women mayors
  - 6 are women of color

Source: Center for American Women and Politics
KEY CONCEPTS FROM RESEARCH

➤ Depreciation of adolescent girls’ self-esteem during middle school (Rothenberg 1995)

➤ Girls are more likely to see boys as leaders than other girls (Weissbourd 2015)

➤ Awareness of gender bias matters (Weissbourd 2015)

➤ Seeing other women leaders matters (Hoyt 2008)

➤ More women politicians were visible in national media, the more likely adolescent girls to be politically active (Campbell 2006)
ABOUT

The We Will LEAD Conference is a daylong conference focused on introducing 8th grade girls field of politics and government.

The conference focuses on leadership development including exposure to women leaders in politics. A large emphasis of the conference is placed on the model of women supporting women/girls supporting girls and development of self-confidence.
THE MISSION

We Will LEAD aims to serve as a step to help middle school girls to see themselves as leaders in their communities now and in the future.
THE CONFERENCE

➤ Who is involved?
➤ What does the day look like?
PARTNERSHIPS

YOUNG PEOPLE FOR

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP

Women’s Political Caucus of New Jersey

Rutgers Douglass Residential College
LESSONS IN FEMINIST LEADERSHIP

Aspects of feminist leadership at the conference:

➤ Diversity and inclusivity
➤ Collaboration
➤ Conversations in safe space

The planning process:

➤ Networks
➤ Don’t be afraid to start over
➤ Feedback is important- listen carefully, but stay true to your vision
Back to the Mission:

*We Will LEAD* aims to serve as a step to help middle school girls to see themselves as **leaders in their communities now and in the future.**

Remember its a step…

…even if **one** girl feels empowered


