

Spotlight on NYU Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service :

Center for Leadership Development, Dialogue and Inquiry Launches

The Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, at New York University is proud to announce, with initial support from the Ford Foundation, the launching of the Center for Leadership Development, Dialogue and Inquiry (Leadership Center).

The Leadership Center is Co-led by ILA members Marian Krauskopf and Professor Sonia Ospina. Krauskopf was formerly at the Ford Foundation and program coordinator of the Foundation's signature community leadership program, the Leadership for a Changing World (LCW). Ospina is an Associate Professor of Public Management and Policy at Wagner, as well as the principal investigator for the research and documentation component of the LCW program.

The Leadership Center is the first at NYU dedicated to the study of leadership primarily in public and nonprofit organizations. The new Center works to expand the boundaries of existing knowledge on leadership, building on prevailing efforts to advance the field, but at the same time challenging the underlying assumptions that have characterized traditional research on leadership. In particular, the Leadership Center will build leadership theory ground-up from the experience and observations of practitioners working in the public and nonprofit sectors as well as in the "social spaces" where these sectors intersect. Central to its approach is the idea that good scholarship on leadership requires ongoing dialogue among practitioners and researchers who can collaboratively identify issues that must be addressed systematically to enhance practice and develop theory. Indeed, the new Center views dialogue and inquiry as complementary "entry points" to the study of leadership, with either one leading to fruitful work in the other.

Below are brief descriptions of the

Leadership Center's key programs:

Research and Documentation Component of Leadership for a Changing World

Leadership for a Changing World (LCW) is a signature leadership program of the Ford Foundation in partnership with the Advocacy Institute and the Leadership Center, NYU/Wagner. LCW recognizes community leaders working in the U.S on complex social issues (www.leadershipforchange.org for general information about LCW). The Leadership Center leads the research and documentation effort to further the field's understanding of social change leadership and to draw lessons about leadership practice, contributing also to the program's broad goal of shifting the conversation about leadership in this country. This effort has spearheaded the Center's interest in research methodologies, such as cooperative inquiry, that afford an equal voice to practitioners in building leadership theory.

Special Initiative for Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector

The Special Initiative for Leadership in the Nonprofit Sector offers senior nonprofit managers several leadership development opportunities. The first is an inquiry into The Calculus of Courage, a five session series starting on February 3, 2004 for senior nonprofit managers and public sector executives examining the multiple influences that spur courageous action. For information about this event, please contact Bonita Stowell at 212-988-7422 or bonita.stowell@nyu.edu. For other programs in this initiative please visit <http://www.nyu.edu/wag->

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Next Generation Leadership Alumni Network

The Leadership Center helps to further a network of alumni of the Next Generation Leadership Program, a leadership program created by the Rockefeller Foundation. This project works in collaboration with NGL alumni to deepen and strengthen the NGL network through opportunities for reflective practice and other joint work focused on common interests

and regional connections. Reflective research approaches that have also been effective in the Leadership for a Changing World Research and Documentation Project are an element of this effort as well.

Leadership in Action

Program

The Leadership in Action Program (LAP) is a results based public management project. It is a partnership of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Reason to Believe enterprise of Baltimore City, and the Leadership Center. Through this program, leaders from all over Baltimore City have come together to plan for and take actions that will accelerate school readiness – in a measurable way - by November 2004. LAP strives to be a model program designed not only to strengthen the capacity for collaborative leadership among government, nonprofit, and community leaders, but to make a real, measurable impact on a condition of well-being, a result, in this case, children entering school ready to learn in Baltimore City

For more information: <http://www.nyu.edu/wagner/leadership>.

