Despite these discouraging statistics, Cottey continues to embrace the vision of our Founder: Education is the key. We have created programs for both our associate degrees and our baccalaureate degrees that intentionally challenge our students to become leaders.

At Cottey we assert that leaders are made and not born, that leadership is a body of knowledge and a set of skills that can be studied, learned, and practiced as a social science discipline. Cottey offers numerous opportunities for this to occur. This report focuses on opportunities for first-year and second-year students to discover and develop their personal leadership styles. Any entering student may join the Leadership, Experiences, Opportunity (LEO) program, a four-semester certification program to formalize and structure students’ leadership experiences. The learning outcomes of the LEO program seek to enable and encourage a student:

- to identify and develop a personal leadership style
- to introduce students to a network of successful women leaders
- to expose students to new experiences, ideas, and cultures
- to develop leadership skills that are transferable to personal life, community service, and future careers/professions.

Throughout four semesters, students engage in off-campus volunteer activities, participate in on-campus organizations, complete leadership seminars and workshops, attend enrichment events, and attend or participate in diversity events. LEO provides an integrating structure for Cottey’s curricular, co-curricular, and extracurricular leadership learning opportunities.

As the following report demonstrates, the activities of the Center for Women’s Leadership encourage Cottey students to be role models, to communicate powerfully the vision they seek to achieve, to be creative, try new ideas and challenge assumptions, to count on teamwork to achieve their goals, and to be mindful of the support needed by each team member. These activities help Cottey students to find their voices and identify their personal leadership styles.

Dr. Judy Robinson Rogers became the 11th president of Cottey College on July 1, 2004. She had been vice president for leadership and ethics at Georgetown College, Georgetown, Kentucky, where her responsibilities included development and coordination of the college’s leadership programs. A native of Shelbyville, Kentucky, Dr. Rogers has an undergraduate degree from Centre College of Kentucky, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in English from the University of North Carolina, which she attended as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow. She helped develop a women’s studies program at Morehead State in Kentucky and later created leadership training programs for groups ranging from middle school through adults.
There is no tried and true recipe for leadership. There is no checklist for a leader to follow. In fact, there are many different styles of leadership because there is not one right way to lead. At Cottey, students have the opportunity to explore, identify, and develop their personal leadership styles.

The introductory course, The Foundations of Leadership (WLS 102) is open to all students, regardless of major or class year. The course enables students to develop a fundamental understanding of leadership and the skills manifest in effective leaders. Students evaluate their personal values and ethics and discuss the complexities inherent in ethical leadership. During finals week, students must orally present their leadership portfolio demonstrating their personal leadership philosophy.

Students practice their leadership skills through participation in over 40 clubs and organizations on campus. Student-led initiatives include hosting comedians, poets, and musicians on campus through the Student Activities Council; organizing and implementing activities to highlight the need to eliminate violence against women in the Feminist Majority Foundation; planning and leading the annual Multicultural Festival through Global Citizens; along with many, many other examples of students making impact on the Cottey College campus.

Beyond campus, students discover their leadership style through service to the community. Students in the Leadership, Experiences, Opportunity (LEO) certification program led a Peace Begins with Me workshop last fall. They first offered the workshop to a small youth group at an area church, then to the girls from the Young Women on the Move organization in Kansas City.

For her LEO presidential project, Carly Schooley partnered with the Nevada High School (NHS) Student Council to develop a National Eating Disorder Awareness week. Their efforts were recognized by Representative Randy Pike and the Missouri House of Representatives.

LEO students developed a Flash Mob for Peace at the historic City Market in downtown Kansas City.

At the final level of the LEO program, students have the opportunity to work with the President to practice their leadership through a major service project. Students must write a grant proposal to receive minimal funding, plan and lead a team to implement their service project, write a final report, and publicly present their projects to the campus community.

This year, Priscilla Barrios planned the Flash Mob for Peace; Meghan Ford organized a Mother Daughter Tea Party in partnership with the local Girl Scout troops; Deja Mason facilitated a dinner and dialogue about diversity; and Carly Schooley worked with the Nevada High School student council to implement a week of programming during the National Eating Disorder week.

“**My definition of leadership changed at Cottey. I now know I’m a leader.**”

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**Student Spotlight**

**EMILY CORTES**

“I am not a leader,” were the shocking, definitive words spoken by Emily Cortes as she began her final LEO level IV portfolio presentation. Emily went on to describe her experiences in high school where leadership is often associated with a position, not necessarily a body of knowledge and a set of skills. Her experiences at Cottey changed her definition.

Reluctant to join the LEO program, Emily’s mom encouraged her to become a LEO. Emily ran for Student Government Association (SGA) and won a senator-at-large position. In this role, she discovered true leadership is more than just a position. She learned she is suited to be a leader because she cares about making a difference on campus, about listening to the needs of her peers, and voicing those needs to SGA. Emily found her voice as a student leader on campus.
Brittne Walker is a 2012 Cottey College graduate and knows the value of creating a network. Active in the LEO certification program at Cottey, Brittne’s favorite guest speaker was Dr. Sandra Laney who then served as an advisor to Secretary Hillary Clinton. Brittne enjoyed casually speaking to such an influential woman who was instrumental in developing the NEXXT Scholars program, a program enabling young women from predominately Muslim countries the opportunity to pursue a science education in women’s colleges across the United States.

“Dr. Laney is doing the type of work I hope to one day do: support women’s colleges while offering women the chance to discover exactly what they are capable of.”

Brittne’s networking came full circle this year. Brittne joined current LEO students for a leadership lunch where she shared about her internship with Texas Senator Wendy Davis. Brittne talked with students about the importance of taking a stand for what you believe and using your voice to make a difference. You may not know her yet, but you will definitely want to pay attention to the name Brittne Walker!
Experiencing New Ideas and Cultures

Opening eyes to a new world by exposing students to new experiences, ideas, and cultures is one objective of the leadership program. Enrichment events like THE FANTASTICKS, a steampunk version of Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet, and college-sponsored trips to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and musicals like Les Miserables give students access to cultural events and the arts they may not have experienced otherwise. These opportunities contribute to the cultural development of students giving them more knowledge of art, stronger critical thinking skills, and a better understanding of other’s experiences.

A collaborative effort by Jo Byrnes, professor of dance; Theresa Spencer, professor of music; Brianne Fulton, associate professor of art; and visiting artist-in-residence, Linda Ganstrom, Wonder… a Night of Art, Music, and Dance, invited students to explore Cottey’s version of Lewis Carol’s Alice in Wonderland. A Mad Hatter tea party, a Belle’s Ball featuring the impressive work of Linda Ganstrom, and a choir and dance concert truly made a night of wonder.

LEO students attended the Womyn Rising Conference in Topeka, Kansas, sponsored by the National Organization of Women, League of Women Voters, and the YWCA on the Washburn University campus. These students had the opportunity to attend sessions about women in politics, voter ID law, women in journalism, among other issues of interest to women.

This year, a special focus on films exposed students to women’s stories in the form of documentaries. Filmmaker Sue Vicory shared her films Kansas City Jazz & Blues; Past, Present & Future, and 1898; The W.F. Norman Story.

This was the second year for the Lunafest festival which showcased films by, for, and about women.

Steve Roese, founder of the nonprofit, Water is Basic, visited campus with the documentary, Ru, which follows a day in the life of South Sudanese girl on her daily quest for water.

The film Girl Rising drew attention to the disparity in access to education for girls around the globe. Women, War, and Peace is a film that challenges the audience to look at war through the experience of women.

Wonder Women! The Untold Story of American Superheroines traces the historical evolution of Wonder Woman as influenced by society through the years.

Taking Root tells the story of Kenyan Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Wangari Maathai who planted trees and demanded human rights.

Student Spotlight

ASHLEY WILLIAMSON

“Going to the Wonder Woman documentary was eye opening,” said current student Ashley Williamson.

“I had never heard of Wonder Woman and signed up for the trip to get off campus for the evening. The film showed Wonder Woman’s transformation through the years based on society’s expectations for women. It was shocking! I’m glad I had the opportunity to learn about women’s portrayal in the media through this LEO field trip. The film had such a big impact on me, I plan to use this as my theme for my LEO Presidential Project.”
Our Generous Donors

The leadership program is made possible by the generosity and inspired vision of these donors:

KIEKHOFER WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP FUND, established in 2000 to honor the support of Dr. William and Mrs. Emily Kiekhofer, a member of DE, Oklahoma, past president of Oklahoma State Chapter, and past member of the Cottey College Board of Trustees. The earnings from this fund support programs for the Center for Women’s Leadership.

MARJORIE MITCHELL LEADERSHIP FUND, established in 2000 by her nieces, Marjorie Mitchell Rose and Toni Mitchell Koski, Class of 1945, and nephew, Tracy Mitchell, in memory of their aunt, Marjorie Mitchell, president of Cottey College from 1938 to 1949. The earnings provide leadership opportunities and experiences at Cottey College.

MARY LOUISE REMY LEADERSHIP FUND, established in 2001 to honor Mary Louise Remy’s leadership and service to Cottey College and the P.E.O. Sisterhood, by her sister, Edith Frances Greathead and her family. Mrs. Remy is past president of International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood and past chairman of the Cottey College Board of Trustees. The earnings of the fund are used for general operations of the Center for Women’s Leadership.


ANDERSON LEADERSHIP FUND, established in 2007 by Dr. William M. Anderson and Mrs. Anna M. Anderson, to commemorate their 30th wedding anniversary and to honor Anna’s service on the Michigan State Chapter board and the Cottey College Board of Trustees. The earnings from the fund are used to provide leadership opportunities for students at Cottey College.

CLASS OF 1950 LEADERSHIP FUND, established in 2000 to commemorate their 50th class reunion. The earnings from this fund promote leadership activities for Cottey students.

CLARK STUDENT LEADERSHIP FUND, established in 1989 by Michael and Nancy Clark Hamisak in memory of her parents, Orville and Arva Clark. Dr. Orville Clark was a member of Cottey College Board of Trustees, 1969-76. The interest is used to pay for travel and other related expenses for outstanding students to attend regional or national conferences.

BARBARA ANDES LEADERSHIP ENDOWMENT, established in 2009 by Dr. Jerry P. Andes, California State Chapter, and friends in honor of Barbara’s many years of service to the P.E.O. Sisterhood and leadership on the boards of California State Chapter, Program for Continuing Education, and the International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. The earnings can be used to fund any activity or need associated with leadership, including, but not limited to, programs, speakers, travel, scholarships, and equipment.

Outreach to Our Community

Strategic partnerships within our community help us impact young women beyond our campus buildings. In its tenth and final year, the Cottey-Nevada Presidential Leadership Program led by president Dr. Judy Rogers provided junior and senior girls from Nevada High School an opportunity to explore and develop as leaders.

Selected by high school staff, thirteen young women were a part of this year’s after-school program. Sessions focused on teambuilding, communication skills, networking and social protocol, and college selection. Nearly 150 young women have participated in the program over the past ten years.

Cottey College students and staff continue to be a resource for the Girl EmPOWERment program for 6th grade girls at Nevada Middle School. Cottey student leaders spoke to the girls about the Power of My Education and hosted the girls for their final celebratory dinner in Raney Dining Room. Finally, Denise Carrick Hedges was the special guest providing the shotgun start and announced the winners at the Girl EmPOWERment 5K this spring.

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ABOVE: Presidential Leadership Program students work on team building and risk taking at a challenge course.

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Center for Women’s Leadership

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Dr. Helen Tomlinson Washburn
10th President of Cottey College

On the occasion of Dr. Washburn's retirement in 2004, the Center for Women's Leadership was renamed the Helen and George Washburn Center for Women's Leadership. We thus honor Dr. Washburn's vision in establishing the CWL during her presidency as well as the Washburns’ many contributions to Cottey College.