

## Red-Carpet Retreat a Success

By Grant Waters

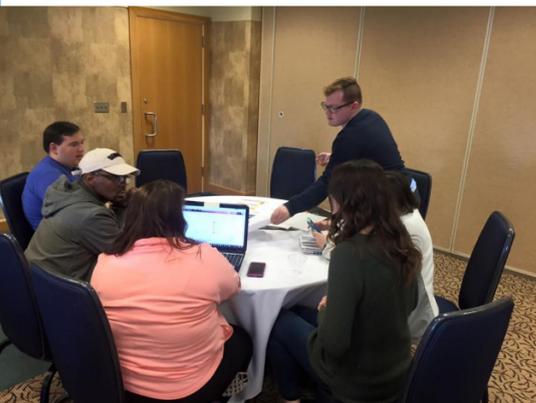


The 2017 Spring SLC Retreat was certainly one to remember. Celebrities normally don't walk down the red carpet at 9:00 A.M., but on the 21st of January SLC fellow Ryan Kelly made sure this tradition was not to stay. With popcorn in hand, the stage was set. Lights, Camera, Action! Soon enough, SLC members found themselves admiring the accomplishments of the Institute from the fall semester in video format (Link will be provided on Social Media VERY soon).

Of course, every organization has its flaws, but the Institute's successes from the fall semester were overwhelming. According to SLC fellow and part-time statistician Ryan Kelly, the Institute set records in attendance for All-Institute Meetings and the Fall Orientation during the past semester. As a collective SLC determined this is due to

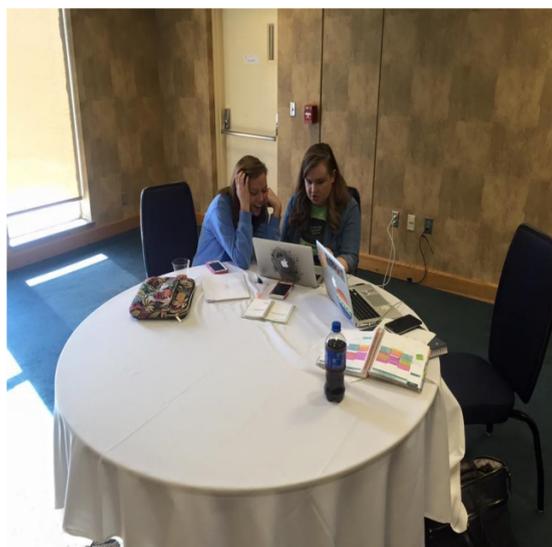
the incredible ability of LI members to consistently support each other. As we the spring semester beings, we must continue to foster an environment of encouragement for each and every Leadership Institute student, no matter what your level of involvement within the program may be.

Following the paparazzi-filled morning, SLC had the pleasure of welcoming Andy Martin from the Konza Club of Topeka to present



at the retreat. The Konza Club of Topeka is an organization dedicated to promoting leadership within the city and beyond. Members have been involved in leadership activities for most of their lives and therefore, have a wealth of experience to offer. In his presentation to SLC, the club's primary message was that to be a successful leader, one must connect with themselves. Popular methods for achieving this include, yoga and meditation. If a leader is connected with themselves, they then have a better opportunity to connect with those around them. SLC even got to experiment by engaging in a form of meditation led by the club representative. Thankfully no one got too relaxed and fell asleep.

The next item on the itinerary was an update on LCE presented by Sarah Edelman. Due to #LCE2k17 being highly confidential until the event takes place, not much can be said about the content of the discussion, but what can be said is that Sarah has done a FANTASTIC job. She definitely gets her Wheaties in each and every morning because from what was presented on the 21st, this LCE may be the best one yet.



The final task for SLC to complete for the day was to pair-up and complete a campus wide selfie scavenger hunt. And when I say campus-wide, I mean campus wide. From Morgan to the KBI building, Ryan had us sweating like true leaders. After a short discussion of how close a team had to be to a building when taking a selfie, Morgan Holloway and Brooke Manny emerged victorious. Great job to those two and to Ryan for a wonderful retreat! Can't wait for Fall of 2017.

## Learning Community Programs

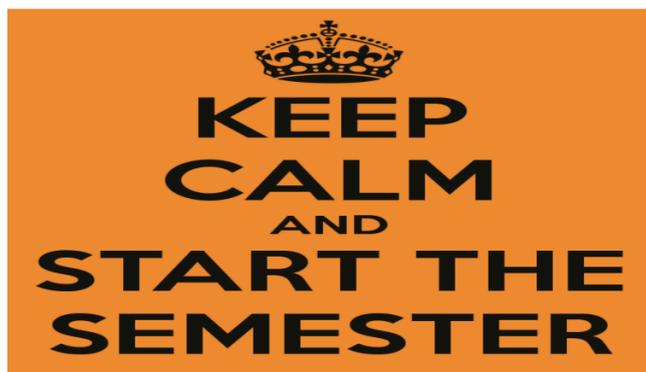
By Alexis Yelland

In the fall semester, the Washburn Leadership Learning Community participated in several programs in their residence hall including ones such as: Fall Orientation, Black Hawk Lab, Trick or Treat off the Street, Cooking Lessons at Washburn Tech, Homecoming events, Leadership with F.R.I.E.N.D.S, a PLP workshop, Diversity Cupcakes, and even a canvas painting to represent the community in the hall. As their resident assistant, I think all of these programs really brought the hall together and made them really think about leadership in one fashion or another. Some events the content was more apparent while others allowed the students to understand that a leader does not always have to be the person out in front to make a difference. I was very pleased with how the semester went in the learning community and hope that the spring semester is even better!

This coming semester I want to take the programs I create and push them to that next level of leadership and participation in hopes of really getting this community of students excited about the roles that they can take on in this next academic year. Program ideas will include a wellness program focused on self care for those who need that motivation for a new semester, spring orientation, attend an advisory board meeting, participate in this year's Leadership Challenge Event, and finally, I will be asking current members of the Student Leadership Council to come join the learning community for a SLC 101 course. SLC 101 will be a great way to ask our students to be involved in the institute next year as well as answer any questions and get them excited on how they can stay a part of our Leadership Institute in years to come. This is my second year as an RA and I have to say that this year I really have been given amazing students to work with; they are an upbeat, enthusiastic, intelligent, fun group to work with and I am very excited to see what this next semester will bring!

## A Word from Abe:

As the semester begins, it is important to get off to a good start. Whether that be setting new goals, getting more involved, or living a healthier lifestyle it is important to stay proactive with positive change. Remember: "Even if you are on the right track, you'll get over it if you just sit there!"



## Aleshire Venture Grant Program

By Ryan Kelly and Grant Waters

The Joe and Janet Aleshire Venture Grant Program is a project offered to students in the LE300 course that allows students to make a direct impact in the community related to early childhood development. The project is worked on all semester by each respective team. They are put in the position of a grant allocator (with real money donated by the Aleshire's) that funnels through the United Way and is ultimately allocated to a non profit organization in Shawnee County. The student teams start the process by sending out Requests for Proposals to local organizations in that field, then make decisions on where the money will go after interviewing the organizations. They then present their decision to the United Way board of directors for approval at the end of the semester. A few LI students that have participated in the project recently include Ryan Kelly, Jack Van Dam, Sarah Edelman, and Bailey Pankratz. Way to go LI members!



## Monthly Student Spotlight

Name: Marissa Meis

Major: Mass Media with an emphasis in creative advertising.

Position: Banquet and Socials Team Leader

What inspired you to join the institute: I joined the Leadership Institute when Ryan Kelly told me there were positions open on the Student Leadership Council for the Institute, and he told me to apply. He knew that I had been looking to join extra activities on campus and wanted to be more involved, so he encouraged me to join the Institute because he thought I would really enjoy it and that it would be a great way to get more involved! It's been a fantastic experience, and I am so glad that I joined!

What kind of experience has the Institute afforded you: I think the experience I have gained from being a part of the Leadership Institute has given me a unique opportunity to see what my future career might look like. I am a Mass Media major with an emphasis in Creative Advertising, so my career will require me to be creative and think quickly while remaining focused and organized.

What has been the most challenging part of your position: I think the most significant challenge I've had is making sure I am on top of deadlines and tasks! For this position, you need to be very organized and aware of when things need to be finished, so managing all the aspects of events needs to be a definite priority!

## WU MonthLI Updates:

- LCE™ Volunteer Registration Closes: January 31st
- Spring Orientation: 9:00 a.m.—1:30 p.m. January 28th
- All-Institute Meeting: January 26: 6:00 p.m.-7:00