Leaders of Tomorrow: Community Scholars Program (CSP)

Program Overview:

Many students here at the University of South Carolina have the capability to be not only great students, but great leaders. Unfortunately, however, there are students who remain unable to access the resources and experiences needed to cultivate their leadership potential; hindering their ability to make their own difference in communities. In an effort to extend the great impact of the *I. DeQuincey Newman Institute for Peace and Social Justice* (Newman Institute), while also allowing students a tangible opportunity to gain leadership and community engagement experience, the Leaders of Tomorrow: Community Scholars Program (CSP) is designed to foster and cultivate current USC students' desires to expand their own visions and dreams in a way that extends beyond the classroom; allowing them the opportunity to tap into their own potential to cultivate the changes they seek to see in communities they value most.

Key Considerations:

- *Leaders of Tomorrow: Community Scholars Program (CSP)* is designed to foster and cultivate current USC students' desires to expand their own visions and dreams in a way that extends beyond the classroom.

- The CSP will allow students a tangible opportunity to gain leadership and community engagement experience.

- The CSP will allow students the opportunity to tap into their own potential to cultivate the changes they seek to see in the communities they value most.

- Participants will have the opportunity to engage and learn from key community leaders possessing decades of expertise in leadership, advocacy, social justice, and community engagement.

To be considered, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be an actively enrolled student at the University of South Carolina for the duration of the program.

2. Be in good academic standing per departmental guidelines and/or possess at least a 2.0 minimum GPA. In the event that this is not the case, applicants must submit a

proposal regarding how the institute may assist them in reaching this status and minimum GPA

3. Demonstrate a desire to utilize leadership abilities post-graduation to better conditions and opportunities for underserved and at-risk individuals, groups, and communities.

4. Be fully committed to voluntarily participate and engage in all aspects of the CSP.

5. Be fully committed to completing all program requirements set forth by CSP faculty.

*Please be advised that Community Scholars Program acceptance is highly competitive. A maximum of 12 participants will be offered acceptance during each cohort. A waitlist will be maintained, in the case that additional slots become available.

*The Community Scholars Program has received funding from USC's Center for Experiential & Integrative Learning (CEIL). These funds have been allocated specifically to support programs that work to increase the retention and experiences of students at risk of dropping out of college pre-graduation. Thus, the following groups will receive preference during the application and admission process: 1st generation students, males, PELL grant recipients, low-income students.