



### Benefit for High School Ski Teams

Friday, Nov 5th  
Hult Center-Silva Hall  
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"The Realm" 8:30 PM  
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## Program teaches leadership

■ Some students looking to help their future careers are taking the L.E.A.D. program

By Simone Ripke  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Leadership skills are something most employers seek in potential employees.

Because Nancy Heapes did not think the opportunities to develop and document these vital skills existed on this campus sufficiently, she created L.E.A.D., or Leadership through Education Activity Development. Now Heapes is the director of L.E.A.D. and hopes to give students the chance to learn more about themselves and their strengths and weaknesses.

"Leadership is the pulse of the business world," Heapes said.

Heapes said the focus of the program is two-fold. For one, there will be a one credit, upper division PE 399 class beginning winter term. The class will give students the opportunity to discover, identify and practice their leadership skills through group problem solving activities.

Another purpose for the program is group activities outside the standard classroom setting. Campus and not-for-profit community groups have the opportunity to take short classes sponsored by L.E.A.D. to help them build a successful team of leaders

who can cooperate in a comfortable work environment.

This fall, the program offered the Office of Orientation Programs some help with getting its new staff started.

Kevin Reichelt, a senior double-majoring in psychology and biology, was one of the students who gained from the program's team-building exercises. Reichelt, who is the student director of orientation, said staff members did not know each other at the beginning of the event, which took place on a ropes course on Spencer Butte.

He said the work environment in the office improved after participating in the program.

"Our group really came together, and we got to know each other," Reichelt said.

Reichelt said students were encouraged to communicate in order to resolve obstacles while being aware of their individual strengths and weaknesses at the same time.

One challenge participants had to overcome was leading a blindfolded person through a "minefield," made out of pieces of wood.

Trust and identifying one's own skills are important parts of the program, Heapes said.

"L.E.A.D. gives students a beautiful opportunity to make a transition into what they want to become," Heapes said.

Classes are small with a capacity of up to 25 students because

Heapes believes that students are denied the opportunity to really become involved in larger classes.

"We don't want anyone to get lost," Heapes said.

The students, who have successfully completed the class, actually lead the groups in the training. Helping groups develop their dynamics and leadership skills gives students a great opportunity to gain "real life" experience, Heapes said.

Senior accounting major Bryan Tarr, who participated in L.E.A.D. is now doing a practicum in it.

As a L.E.A.D. client, he experienced first hand that the program provides a way to make himself more visible in the job market. The program provides an opportunity to document leadership skills that many students may have but perhaps have not proven yet, he said.

Heapes said the first leadership class, Action Leadership, which will be offered next winter, will consist of a minor amount of lecturing and a major amount of applying leadership and group skills in the class. Specifically, students will lead ice-breakers or master an obstacle and lead their peers through the problem-solving process. Heapes said that the initiatives are much more valuable than lectures in showing students what works and what doesn't.

"We are creating a community of leaders," Heapes said.

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with participating Graduate & Law Schools

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November 3 (One day fair)  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. EMU Ballroom

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