

# LEADING EDGE INSTITUTE

The Leading Edge Institute is a unique leadership development process for young women across the state of Alabama. It is an interactive, educational process that brings together college women to provide them with leadership skill development, expose them to critical issues facing Alabama, and connect them with experienced leaders. More than 30 leaders--from corporate executives and scholars to community activists and political officials--volunteer to serve as faculty and mentors. Each year, Jacksonville State University selects three distinguished women to represent the university at the Leading Edge Institute.

There are Four Major Components to the Process:

- 1. Summer Institute-** An intensive, week-long program that takes place at the 4-H Youth Center in Columbiana, Alabama, and concludes with a trip to Alabama's Black Belt to experience some challenges facing communities and some of the most innovative solutions. Students work together on a service project during the week and interact with dynamic leaders.
- 2. Leadership Action Opportunities-** A mini-grant program provides students with resources to take on a community challenge and work in teams to make a difference. Other opportunities include shadowing women leaders, developing mentoring relationships and continuing learning opportunities for alumnae.
- 3. Fall Connections/ Alumnae Workshop-** This is a partial weekend workshop connecting LEI students from across campuses and classes for skill, project, and state issue development. During the weekend, they have the opportunity to join in an outdoor recreational learning experience that challenges students in risk-taking, teamwork and reflection.
- 4. Winter Summit-** The weekend begins with a special dinner honoring the current class' participants. The Summit includes a guided reflection and evaluation process for the students' projects as they present their experiences to each other. A group dynamic/power simulation game, a panel on women in politics and personal development planning complete the curriculum.

Since there are a limited number of spaces we will be conducting a selection process. The selection committee will use your completed application in order to make their selection. Please return your completed application to the Office of Student Life, 402 Theron Montgomery Building, by 4:30pm on April 07, 2008.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Mardracus Russell at (256) 782-5493. Thank you again for your interest.

LEADING EDGE INSTITUTE  
2008 Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Campus Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Student #: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

The Leading Edge Institute is a nine month program that begins with a week long summer institute, a program that will be worked on during the fall semester, followed by a Gala and a Summit weekend. The Summer Institute dates are May 26-June 1, 2008 and the Gala and Summit weekend is scheduled for February 2009.

I verify that I have read and completed this application accurately and honestly to the best of my knowledge and understand the values and commitment of this program.

I understand that in case I choose not to attend the Leading Edge Institute Conference, Fall Connections/Alumnae Workshop and Winter Summit once selected and fulfill the obligations to its entirety, I will be responsible for reimbursement to Jacksonville State University and the Office of Student Life for the amount of \$1,000.00.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Director of Student Life

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return your completed application to the Office of Student Life, 402 Theron Montgomery Building, by 4:30pm on April 7, 2008.