

Testimonials

"The program helped give a wholistic view of WMU and leadership as a whole. The cohort I was in was great and gave me the opportunity to make new friends whose relationships will extend through the years."

- Marshall Cammack – Market Research Manager

"I enjoyed participating in the Employee Leadership Academy and found it to be an excellent opportunity to meet more of my colleagues from around the university, especially since I had only been employed with WMU for two years at that time. The program's focus on leadership and decision-making at WMU provided me with greater insight of the institution and higher education as a whole and has helped to refine my own leadership philosophy."

- Malia Roberts – Interim Senior Director, Graduate College Operations

"The Employee leadership Program was a great experience for me. Even though I had been with WMU for nearly 5 years at the time, I still felt like a "new" employee and had very little exposure to other departments. One of the best outputs from this training for me was the new friendships and connections. I can now walk through different areas or attend events and run into more people that I know. This really helps with a sense of community here at WMU. The highlight of the program itself was meeting with each of the WMU Vice Presidents and President Montgomery. It was great to meet each one and better understand their areas of responsibility, challenges, passions for WMU, and personality. We are all people with different things that make us tick and get us excited. It was awesome to see that up close."

- Lon Pschigoda – General Manager, WMU Paper Pilot Plants

"This program provided insight regarding many of the moving parts at WMU that I knew little about. It also helped me to understand managerial styles and the importance of teamwork."

- Lori Diehl – Office Manager

"I am so glad that I applied for Leadership Development! The most important thing I learned about myself was that I can be a great leader. I just need to believe in myself and use the strengths that I already have."

I learned so many things about our University and the leaders who run it. I was able to visit many parts of campus that I had never been before. The most interesting place was the Engineering Campus and I also enjoyed visiting CHHS, since I do not get a chance to go to those parts of campus.

Our leaders are down to Earth people who are open to discussions and ideas from every aspect. It was eye opening to learn about our budgets and the State and Federal aspects. I also learned a great deal from the conflict resolution session.

Thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to being a leader of our University!"

- Susan Andrie – Senior Finance Assistant

"The 2022-2023 Employee Leadership Development Program was a tremendously positive experience for me. I entered the program hoping to hone my leadership skills for service here at WMU. I came out of that program with enhanced knowledge, but even more importantly, I have formed connections with employees from all aspects of the university who also want to make an impactful change. I greatly appreciate the program and would recommend it to any staff employee who wants to make a difference."

- Bonnie Gabriel – Associate Business Manager

"I really enjoyed learning more about the function of the university. We were introduced to several key members of the WMU community and their roles such as the President, several VPs, union representatives and others. Learning about how the university works helps inform how I work with the university."

Understanding the different methods of leadership helps me better communicate and collaborate with those above and below me. I'm confident that I'll use several techniques and concepts I learned from the Employee Leadership Development program in my dealings with every work relationship I formed on campus."

- David Evans – Video Producer/Director

"The Leadership Institute has been one of my best experiences at Western. The first and last day of events were held at Pretty Lake Camp. This was an excellent venue for actual physical team work. It allowed us to be strategic in our physical activities and to trust and depend on each other. This experience demonstrates how our dependency impacts our actual workflow in the office.

And all other sessions in between were interesting and informative. I have gained a greater understanding of my leadership style as a result of the tool used, as well as

strategies for working with styles of others. In addition, there is greater understanding of university policies and procedures, and labor relations. The best part about the institute was, opportunity to role play and discuss with peers on how best to solve and address problems and concerns.

This has moved the needle for my personal growth as a leader and increased my knowledge about the operations of the university.”

- Sonja Dotson – Associate Director Donor Relations for Principle Gifts