

Welcome to the first annual

Student Leadership Development Day

Presented by



September 30, 2026

Special Thanks to:

- **The CISL Advisory Board:** Anita Rivers, Craig Mourton, Luz Flores, Laura Reynolds, Mary Sakin, Rashard Mills, Rosa Hanco, Ashley Robinson, Bruce Peabody, Ian Mercer, Michael DeStefano, Otito Iwuchukwu, Robert McGrath, Stacie Lents, William Toms, and Agie Markiewicz-Hocking
- **FDU Leadership:** Benjamin Rifkin, University Provost, James Almeida, Dean, Silberman College of Business, Patty Durso, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Scott Parsons, Executive Director, Institute for Character and Leadership
- All participating offices and presenters
- All FDU students, faculty staff, and leadership who supported this event
- You, for attending!

In partnership with:



STUDENT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY SCHEDULE

Title	Presenters	Description	Room
	10:00 – 11:00 AM		Dreyfuss Hall
The Power of Persuasion	Silberman College of Business Career Placement & Outreach, Assistant Dean Corporate Engagement & Student Success, Mary Sakin	Success in college and career depends on more than having great ideas—it depends on your ability to communicate them effectively. This interactive workshop explores the art and science of persuasion, helping you develop the skills to influence others with confidence, credibility, and authenticity. You'll learn techniques for building compelling arguments, understanding your audience, and navigating difficult conversations. You'll leave with practical strategies to become a more persuasive communicator and influential leader.	105
Leading in the Age of AI: Ethics, Equity, and Authenticity	Florham Library, Research & Instruction Librarian Christine Jansen	Large Language Models (LLMs) can streamline administrative tasks, but uncritical reliance can compromise authentic leadership, equity, and trust. Through real-world case studies and a live auditing exercise, student leaders will explore critical AI literacy by learning when to leverage LLMs as thought partners and when to preserve human judgment.	106
The Power of One: Leadership Through Service	Career Development Specialist Christopher Bickel	In this workshop, students will explore how volunteerism can help them grow as leaders and as young professionals.	107

	11:15AM-12:15pm		
So, You Want To Start a Club? Advice From Presidents Who Built Their Own Communities on Campus	University Honors and Writing Program Coordinator, Delanie Clay, and FDU students Ashley Paez and Dylan Bariexca	Two FDU honors students will discuss their experiences starting their clubs, including connecting with resources on campus; the challenges, successes, and everything in between. Attendees will reflect upon their own ideas for starting a club (or identify a club on campus they would like to get involved in) and begin listing the steps they should take to get started, while receiving feedback and advice from the presenters. Q&A and open discussion will follow.	105
Future Health Leaders: How to Lead, Succeed, and Stand Out from Day One	FDU chapter of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB). FDU Students: Casey Blount, Annalise Carioti, Vinci Introna & Melanie Perez	Insider leadership and success strategies shared by FDU Nursing alumni and upperclassmen leaders of the FDU chapter of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (ASBMB). Topics include leadership on campus, the successful transition to the working world, and emerging as a leader in the health care industry.	106
Own Your Time: Priorities Over Procrastination	Academic Support Center – Reading/Writing Specialist Kimberly Coyle and Writing faculty member Donna Whelan	Do you sometimes find it difficult to find the time for all your schoolwork and other activities? Do you sometimes find it hard to focus and instead waste time procrastinating (and then feel stressed out because of it)? If so, this session will help you learn and practice time management skills that will make you more effective.	107

	12:30 – 1:30 PM		
The Leader in the Mirror: Understanding Yourself Before Leading Others	Devils Athletics Head Coaches Jennifer Carr (Field Hockey), Elise Parisi (Tennis), and Rosa Riccobono (Lacrosse)	Leadership starts with self-awareness. In this interactive session, students will explore their personal leadership strengths, habits, stress responses, and potential blind spots to better understand how they show up when leading others. Through reflection, discussion, and a hands-on “Leadership User Manual” activity, participants will identify one area of personal growth and leave with a practical action they can apply in their leadership role on campus.	105
Werewolf - An Interactive Game of Power and Influence	Ian Mercer, Assistant Professor of Management, Silberman College of Business; Game designer	In this session, we will take a brief look at the different ways we gain power and use influence to achieve our aims. We will then put into practice what we have learned through an interactive game play experience. Can you survive the night from a werewolf attack? Can you persuade the rest of the village to eject the wolf? Or, if you are a werewolf, can you remain hidden and use your influence to banish those seeking to find you?	106
	2:00 – 2:45 PM		
A Conversation on Leadership with Provost Rifkin and Coach Gaitley	Women’s Basketball Coach Stephanie Gaitley & University Provost, Dr. Benjamin Rifkin	Knights Women’s Basketball Coach Stephanie Gaitley will reflect on her incredible career in coaching, including becoming the 14th Winningest Coach All-Time in NCAA Division I history, leading her teams to 22 postseason bids. In her two years at FDU, WBB has gone 59-9, won 2 NEC titles, and earned 2 NCAA tournament berths. In a fun conversation (with time for Q&A), she’ll discuss her perspective on leadership with University Provost Benjamin Rifkin. https://www.fdu.edu/fdumagazine/fall-2026/crown-secured/	Hartman Lounge in the Mansion to watch live stream from Wilson Auditorium (we will take questions from both rooms during Q&A)