

# *student leadership*

## The Student Leadership Training Program

Leaders walk their talk.

# Linkage

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 2    THE SLTP ALUMNI NEWSLETTER    OCTOBER, 2005

## Get ReEnergized



In just over 50 days, the entire SLTP family, together with all of their friends will be coming together at Nichols College for the annual ReEnergizer Conference.

Last year, the ReE hosted over 600 participants from nine different states and over 90 schools. There were even two students from Viet Nam, and two from Spain! The conference was louder than ever, and it featured workshop tracks for advisers, parents, collegians and student leaders.

Last summer we hosted over 250 students from 131 different schools. It doesn't take a whole lot of math skill to realize that we should have a really huge crowd at the REE this year. At Nichols we will have access to the entire campus, so our only limitations will

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## Coming soon: Mix it Up Day

Last fall, more than 200,000 students accepted the challenge to begin bridging social boundaries in their schools. On Mix It Up at Lunch Day 2004, they stepped out of their comfort zones and sat somewhere new, with someone new. 34 of SLTP's member schools participated in this event. A few were unable to schedule their participation on the same day as the National effort, but were able to schedule and stage a "Mix it up" event at their school.

On November 15, Mix It Up at Lunch Day 2005, students like you are going to stir things up in their school cafeterias – again.

Will you accept the challenge?

### How to Mix it Up

At many schools around the country, the cafeteria at lunchtime is a social map of the whole school. It's a map with many, many boundaries.

These boundaries exist for many reasons — habit, friendship, status, fear,

prejudice. The simple space of a cafeteria table is, for many of us, a comfort zone where we can be ourselves with those who know us best. The simple fact is that most people sit where "they always sit."

For others, the lunchroom with all its boundaries is a world with its own pressures — a world of familiar strangers and rigid expectations. And for more than a few — the cafeteria is a site where humiliation and ostracism are the norm.

But, on November 15, students across the country are going to stir things up in their school cafeterias. And you can do it, too. Here are some ideas to help you Mix It Up at Lunch.

### 1. Reach out

All it takes is one person venturing outside the comfort zone to stir things up, but on November 15, 2005, why not have a whole crowd sitting someplace new?

Ask your friends to join in. Pitch

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## Inclusion Grants

Have a great idea about how to challenge social boundaries and bring down the walls that divide your school?

The Teaching Tolerance Organization wants to help, and, to prove it, they will give \$500 grants to support youth-directed programs and projects that address social boundaries in schools or communities.

Their guidelines are simple:

- Youth must serve as decision-

makers in the project. Ideally, the project is created and implemented by youth.

- Projects must promote collaboration across social boundaries — different youth groups, clubs or community groups working together.
- The project or program should be a part of an ongoing effort, or an effort that's just getting started, but will continue.

- Grants are non-renewable. Be creative. They're definitely open to new ideas! Apply for a grant! Download and complete the application: [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

## Alumni Association DifferenceMaking Week

The last week of September was declared as a Difference-Making Week by our Alumni Association. Our alumni were encouraged to get involved with the Jester and Pharley Phund (see below) and get Read-a-thons in place.

All across the Northeast, in NY, in NJ in MA, in RI, and in CT that is exactly what has taken place. While it was not possible to stage the events all during the same week, the Alumni Drive has

resulted in more than incredible success for kids who are in need of a smile.

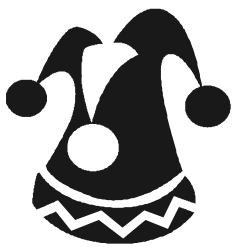
Over 20 alumni have reported getting the ball rolling in their schools and communities to stage read-a-thons. To say the least, this is incredibly heartwarming.

As each read-a-thon reports their results, we will post their results here. SLTP will honor all of the alumni participants and

their schools at a special ceremony at the InterState Student Leadership Forum this Spring (April 2 at Nichols College).

If you decide to sponsor a read-a-thon, please keep us posted. We want to publicize everyone's efforts. Keep us posted on your results.

## The Jester and Pharley Phund



The Jester has lost his jungle is among our favorite stories. Reading it at camp after the differencemakers is one of the highlights for

every CC and Director.

The Saltzman family has created an opportunity for you to bring your favorite book to kids in

the hospital suffering with cancer. It is called "the Reading To Give" Program. It is a read-a-thon to raise funds to bring copies of the Jester to those kids in the hospital.

The mission of the organization is as follows: To provide educational experiences that give every child a sense of hope, a feeling of self empowerment, a love of learning, the joy of laughter and a desire to live up to Pharley's motto: It is up to us to make

a difference. It is up to us to care.

We recommend and endorse this worthy cause.

Visit: [www.thejester.org](http://www.thejester.org)

Remember, if you decide to sponsor a read-a-thon, please keep us posted. We want to honor your achievements.

## ReE Activity Fair—Sharing the Good Stuff



At the ReEnergizer Conference there will be dozens of tables representing key groups and activities from all across New England. Our intent is to display the best activities, ideas, and pro-

jects so that we can all benefit.

All not-for-profit community service organizations are eligible for a free presentation table.

All member schools and alumni are encouraged to set up a presentation table. (the tables will all be judged by a special committee and camp scholarships will be awarded for the best ideas and best displays)

There were over 50 groups participating in last year's Fair.

Please help us. Consider setting up a table to display and explain your group's best project.

Is your group interested in a space at the Fair?

If so, please tap to Adam Travis at [activityfair@sltp.info](mailto:activityfair@sltp.info)

## Alumni Association Elections at the ReE

The annual Alumni Executive Board Elections will take place at the ReEnergizer Conference.

To be eligible for election the candidate must be a student in middle school, high school or in college (undergraduate only) and must be a graduate of OTS, LTC or ALC.

To place your name on the regional ballot, Alumni need to register by email.

Registrations should include:

Alumni Name—  
Conference attended/year (i.e.,

LTC2 / 2003); School; Grade level; Town; address; phone & email address

**Election Registrations must be received by November 3.**

Candidates will be contacted prior to the conference and will be expected to present a one minute speech at the ReE.

Each of the three established regions Region 1) Massachusetts; Region 2) Rhode Island; and Region 3) Connecticut — will elect three representatives to comprise Alumni Executive Board.

**Expectations for the Regional Representatives—**

1) to stage a regional difference-maker event prior to June 1, 2005.

2) to develop a means of communication between and among SLTP Member schools in their region to help alumni in their region.

4) to represent their region to the SLTP AB

5) to elect the SLTP Student Executive Officers

## On your Conference CD

Check out the CD you received when you turned in your key. On it you will find:

- ALL Crew Photos & the staff photo
- A Staff Application
- Earliest Bird Applications for 2006 SLTP (these include an incredible break on next year's tuition)
- The ReEnergizer Application
- Information about the Leadership in Action Grant Program
- The Grant Application
- The Student Leader of the Year Forms
- Alumni Benefit Information
- The Alumni Election Registration Form
- The Personal Development and Public Service Portfolio guidelines
- Portfolio Submission Forms and Assembly instructions
- Photo CD Order Form

## Looking for a place to play



Bullying and abuse toward women—these are the issues dramatically brought home by our plays “stop, look and listen” and “silence is NOT an option.” We have been lucky enough to take these plays on the road bringing them to state conferences and to several schools.

Recently we filmed “stop, look and listen” and we plan to film a future production of “silence.” The films will be made into DVDs and we hope to make those available nationally.

As you can imagine it is difficult to bring our casts together. Our staff are spread out all over the US as they attend their respective colleges and high schools. Getting them together to present a play at a school is incredibly difficult. As all of our players must miss a day of school and travel to wherever the play is to be presented.

To get around this, we

have staged the play in August, we have staged the play during collegiate breaks and we have staged the play on Saturdays. Still the juggling of schedules and juggling of roles make things pretty difficult on our actors.

Another major issue our alumni have is with their administrators, who want to see the play first before committing to staging it at their school. It is hard to argue against that logic.

We’d like to stage the play so that lots of principals, advisers and student leaders can see it. We’d like to do this in the evening, so our cast does not miss any school. We’d like the site to be free of charge, in fact we’d like to be able to utilize the presentation to fund some scholarships to SLTP. That means we’d like to charge a small admission fee or have some organization sponsor the production. We’d also like to be able to film the production for inclusion in the DVD.

If you think your principal or your organization would like to host a presentation of one of our plays under those circumstances, then let’s get the ball rolling and start setting it up.

We envision three regional presentations—one this Fall, one this winter and the final one in the

spring.

Check your calendar. Discuss the situation with your adviser, your principal and with the folks in charge of the auditorium / theater.

We’d need access to the auditorium / theater on Friday afternoon for rehearsal. The play would go on that evening. Your faculty, administrators and student leaders would have free admission. A full list of our AV needs will be provided well before the production.

Most auditoriums are busy throughout the entire year, and especially on Friday nights. So it may not be possible, which is why you need to do your homework before you get back to me.

Tap to me: [jim@sltp.info](mailto:jim@sltp.info)

## Time is running out—Earliest Birds due October 30

If you already know you want to return to SLTP next summer. Take advantage of the “earliest bird” applications which are on your Conference CD.

The earliest bird applications allow us to make our plans and preparations with some money in the bank. This enables us to offer a substantial reduction in the tuition.

The deposit to hold the space in only 105 dollars and the tuition reduction is intended as a benefit for your attendance this summer.

You may extend the earliest bird offer to your close friends and members of your family.

But don’t wait—the deadline for the Earliest Bird applica-

tions is October 30!

## Ask the doctor (send your questions to: askthedoctor@sltp.info)

Dear Doctor SLTP,

I think my sister is involved with a boy who is abusing her. I have seen no evidence of physical violence yet, but he is more than manipulative and she is always tip-toeing around his moods.

I tried talking to my Mom and Dad, but they seem to think she should find out for herself.

Any ideas?  
Worried in MA

*Dear Worried,*

*First, did you go to camp this past summer? If you did you received a copy of the Silence Booklet — give that to Mom and Dad. It may open their eyes.*

*If you have lost that booklet, or if you did not come to camp last sum-*

*mer send us (info@sltp.info) a request for the booklet.*

*Second, talk to her friends. Enlist their help. Remember it often takes 41-83 times for a person to “hear” what you are saying.*

*Don’t let her become a victim—keep after her.*

Dear Doctor SLTP,

Our teachers have an ongoing contract dispute with the town. They have just begun something called “work to rule.” It is awful. All of the teachers come in together in the morning, just on time and they leave every afternoon exactly on time to their contract.

I have always struggled in math and I am worried that I will not be able to handle it without all the extra help I am used to. On top of that many of the

clubs and activities have been cancelled.

We are worried about our Junior Prom, and the seniors are having difficulty already getting recommendation letters.

Is there anything we can do?  
Victims in MA

*Dear Victimized,*

*Unfortunately you and your classmates are being victimized. A lyric from an old song rings true—“Nobody’s right when everybody’s wrong.”*

*Talk to your teachers one on one if that is possible — take care of your grades first. Seek out help from upper classmen for tutoring.*

*With regard to your clubs and activities, seek help from parents, your principal and your town youth coordinator.*

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## Photo CD

2005 Photos

**In your manual and on the Crew CD you will find an order form for the Camp Photo CD.**

**The Photo CD includes both of the slide shows featured in the Closing Ceremonies as well as all of the photos taken by the staff throughout the week — from Dorm Squad through closing circle. This summer the staff took over 6,000 pictures!!!**

To order a Photo CD simply mail a request for the specific week you desire to Helen together with a check for \$12.50—make the check payable to CASA-Lead Photo CDs will be delivered at the ReE!

Helen Fitzgerald  
Photo CD  
108 Observatory Way  
Marshfield, MA 02050

## Take a chance on a Kaplan Course



SLTP recently received the gift of a test prep course from Kaplan. The course can be any one of the excellent prep courses that Kaplan offers from their SAT prep course to any of the courses

they offer for graduate school test preparation.

This was and is an enormous gift as these courses cost hundreds of dollars.

All of the attendees of last summers programs received an opportunity to get a shot at the course. Most of the parents took advantage. The final opportunity will be at the ReEnergizer Conference. During the lunches tickets

will be available for the special drawing. The tickets are \$10. The winner will be announced during the final ceremonies.

Add one more item to the list of benefits for SLTP Alumni!

## Mix it Up Day—November 15 continued from page 1

the idea to the clubs, sports teams and other groups you belong to. Invite other clubs to participate. Get teachers and administrators on board. Publicize the event.

### 2. Plan

How are you going to "do the day?" Here are 5 ways to mix up lunchroom seating.

- Create a "calendar" out of 12 tables and sit by birth month or by Zodiac signs.
- Number several tables and draw your seat assignment from a hat.
- Draw colored candies out of a bag and sit with the matching tablecloth.
- Find a table where you don't know more than two people.

- ◆ Give each person a "ticket" that matches the color tag on a chair.

### 3. Act

The day has arrived. It's November 15th, and you're sitting at a new table staring at a bunch of people you don't know. What now? Here are 5 ideas to jump-start the conversation.

- What's the last CD you bought?
- Imagine you rule the world. What's the first law you'd make?
- What's the craziest thing you ever did in public?
- You're signing autographs. What are you famous for?
- ◆ You're the principal. What's the first class you drop -- and what class do you add?

SLTP member schools have made the most of this activity. The day creates a spotlight and develops an awareness. The awareness can and will enable frank discussion between faculty, students and administration concerning inclusion issues.

Don't expect 100% success. Remember how human beings react to change. Denial, anger, bargaining, depression and finally acceptance. The most common reactions to Mix It Up Day are Denial and Bargaining.

Be ready. Now go make the difference!

For more information and materials visit: [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

## The 2006 SLTP Conference Schedule

Where leaders learn HOW  
to make a difference!

- **The Core Adviser Seminar**  
October 17
- **The ReEnergizer Conference**  
November 25
- **Spring Leadership Forum**  
April 1
- **Officer Training Seminar**  
July 6 - 7
- **Leadership Training Conferences**  
(4)  
July 11 - 15; July 18 - 22;  
Aug 1 - 5; Aug 8 - 12

- **Advanced Leadership Conferences**  
(4)  
July 12 - 15; July 19 - 22;  
Aug 2 - 5; Aug 9 - 12
- **Leadership in Athletics**  
July 27 - 28
- **Adviser Certification**  
July 27 - 28
- **The Leadership Center**  
July 12 - 15

We're on the Web!

[www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info)

Information for  
Parents, Teachers,  
Students,  
Administrators  
Applications \*  
Photos

## Ask the Doctor

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*If the teachers are refusing to write letters of recommendation (I highly doubt any of the competent teachers would do this) then the seniors should get a letter drafted by their principal explaining that to the colleges. That letter should be included in the student packets mailed to the colleges.*

*I wish you luck. The adults in these situations hope to manipulate each other by victimizing the students.*

*Do not get involved in the contract issues. Do not paint either side as right or wrong.*

Dear Doctor SLTP,  
I spoke with our principal

about bringing “stop, look and listen” or “silence is NOT an option” to our school. She was very interested, but would like to see the plays herself first.

Any ideas?  
Playing in RI

Dear Playing,

*Actually we are working on that (check out page 4 of this newsletter). We are seeking venues to stage our plays on Friday evenings. We'd like to do this regionally and we hope to be able to do it several times this year.*

Dear Doctor SLTP,  
I'd like to go to camp next

summer and I'd like to take advantage of the Earliest Bird application rates, but I have no idea what my schedule is going to be like so I don't know what week to sign up for. What should I do?  
Comin back

Dear Comin back,

*I'm glad to hear that you plan to return. Taking advantage of the reduced tuition makes total sense to me. Send in the application. Pick two of the weeks, you'll be assigned to one. As long as you let us know by May 1, you will be able to switch weeks should that be necessary and you will be able to do so without any financial penalty.*

## The ReEnergizer continued from page 1

be the number of people who can be accommodated at lunch. We are currently planning two lunches so our registration limit is upwards from 800. Due to the size crowd we are expecting, our advice is to register early.

On the Crew Photo CD there are copies of the REE Registration Form. And additional forms can be found on our website—[www.sltp.info](http://www.sltp.info)

The REE is scheduled for **Saturday, November 26** at Nichols College and is sure to be the *loudest, funnest and learningest* conference to be held in New England this fall.

The ReE comes at just the right time of the school year. First term is over and done. Most school activity groups have “normed,” and the biggest time of the year is just ahead.

Traditionally the busiest term of the year for school activities is second term and the ReE provides the necessary “booster shot” of motivation and positive energy to keep

yourself and your organization on the right track.

Register early. Bring lots of friends – bring your whole student council and even the “cookie cupcake club. Bring your principal and bring your adviser—there will be a special session for them. Get your parents to drive—we even will have a program for them! You should also bring lots of enthusiasm and bring ideas to share and questions to be answered.

Due to the size of the crowd – we will begin and end the program at the athletic center in the big gym. Plan to park in that parking lot. There is lots of room there for the buses! Drive to the Remillard dorm turn left and follow the noise and signs to the gym parking area.

As you know the ReE is a true learning experience. The skillshops we have planned will focus on COMMUNICATION SKILLS and PROJECT PLANNING – to get kids involved and to keep them involved.

Among the many other activities and planned for the conference there will be: an Activity Fair, a

Student Election, a presentation of “bang, bang you're dead” (bring your administration, advisers); Community Leader

The program will begin early (by 9:00). Don't miss a minute.

It is vital to note your email address on the Registration Form — we will contact delegates via email regarding conference news and updates. **No one will be admitted who has not pre-registered.**

Remember: Formal registration will take place in the Gym Lobby at Nichols.

The conference will run from 9—3 on Saturday, November 26.

### When

**November 26**

**9:00 to 3:00**

### Where

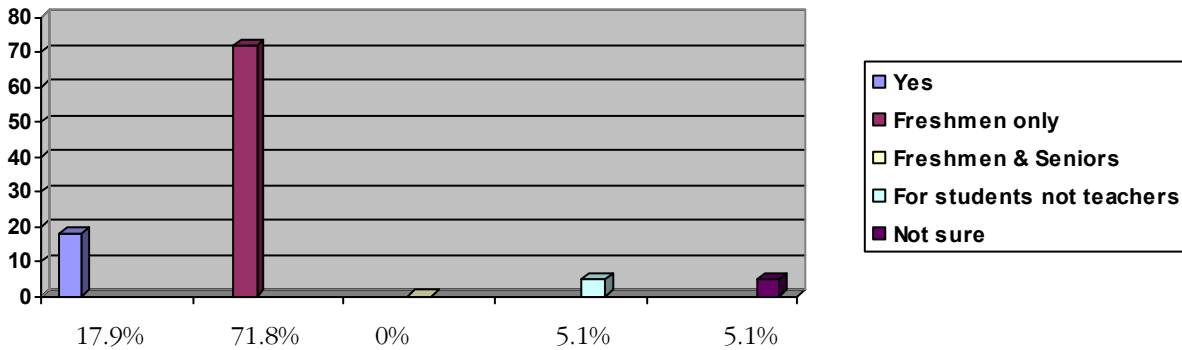
**Nichols College**

### Tuition

**\$15**

## And the survey says . . .

This month's on-line survey asked: **Does your school run orientation programs for everyone?**



### Yes, orientation programs important by Helen Fitzgerald, CASA Executive Director

How important is it to begin anything well? The question is not rhetorical, the answer is easy. Beginning well is fundamental to success.

One of the most important lessons a leader must learn is about Group Process. Learning and knowing the stages that a group goes through enables and empowers a leader to work with the group to build the type of group that will accomplish their goals.

Schools - all schools including colleges—need to face the reality of Group Process. That reality is that all groups will form. That formation can be either deliberate or accidental. When it is deliberate, then the leaders are doing whatever it takes to form the group according to the purpose of that group. When it is accidental—anything can happen.

Nationally schools with purposeful orientation programs have fewer discipline issues, better attendance

and higher achievement.

Forming the Group each and every year is the task of the leaders of the school community (student leaders too).

Orientation programs that only spout about rules and regulations are not orientation programs - they are sermons about rules.

### No, orientation programs are a waste of time by Ken Mattis, HS Math

We've all sat through the never ending lectures about what will happen when this rule or that rule are broken. Some of the orientation programs include little homilies from someone speaking about turning over a new leaf or having a clean slate, or getting ready for real life—same old, same old.

Why bother? Put it all in an email and let's get back to the real work

in the school. Let's get back to class.

I've been to a few of the touchy-feely assemblies, where we are all invited to get to know each other. Please! The kids already know each other. The teachers don't have the time. And the students who don't know everyone will do so quickly. That's part of life.

We are a high school and our business is academics. The students are not babies, they need to learn to fend for themselves. Let's not bother with orientation assemblies. We have state exams to get ready for, we have a great deal of curriculum to teach. We have better things to do.

## Champions for Youth

All across New England in every community there are ardent advocates for youth whose support and advocacy is not due to any self interest. Since 1993, The Student Leadership Training Program through its staff and graduates have sought to recognize the contributions of these special community leaders. Without the support of these champions, the goals of community involvement and community service that most student activity programs set would be unattainable.

The idea behind this award program is simple. SLTP hopes to assist local student leaders in their efforts to recognize community support. Essentially this award is about catching people doing things right.

The criteria for this award must vary from school to school, as each school's circumstances are different. However, the effective criterion must not be changed. This award is intended for community leaders who are ACTIVELY committed to making a difference for youth. SLTP suggests that :

No more than ONE award be given annually to any individual. All Alumni and Staff of the Student Leadership Training Program are eligible to nominate individuals for the awards.

To be effective this program must be implemented with the full cooperation and involvement of the school administration. Involve everyone in the school that is actively involved in the community.

Publicity is vital. Remember praise is much more effective as a form of recognition when it is public.

Yet, this recognition is much more than a certificate and a press release. This recognition offers an opportunity to celebrate and enrich school support. If possible, host an assembly or reception. Provide gifts and/or flowers. Create an event.

Please allow SLTP to help you honor your community champions. To nominate a community leader, please submit: their name; a brief profile; and a brief expla-

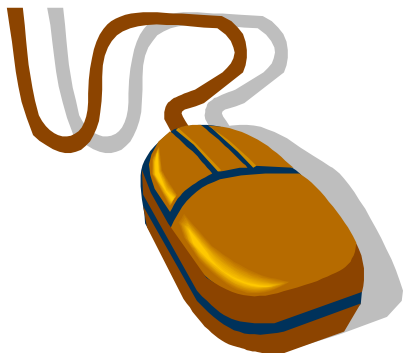
nation of the reasons for the nomination. Send that to Stacey Hurd: [champions@sltp.info](mailto:champions@sltp.info)

SLTP will publish all of the award winners names and profiles on a special website and on the pages of our newsletter. There are two opportunities to celebrate your community Champions. The first will be at the ReE on November 26. Additional Champions will be feted in the spring at the DifferenceMaker Showcase.

**The Deadline for submitting names and profiles for recognition at the ReEnergizer Conference is November 10, 2005.**

Champions will receive a packet which contains their certificates, press release information and special scholarships which will be created in their name.

## Make a difference with a click of a mouse by Adam Travis, Conference Director



In June 1999, the Hunger Site began with a simple idea. Have a website where people click a button to make a small donation to feed hungry people around the world. Sponsors pay for the donation and get to display an ad on the donation page. The idea

quickly spread and soon there were dozens of sites like this, but the later decline in web advertising has led to the closure of almost all of them.

Today there are three major click-to-donate sites remaining: the Hunger Site and it's affiliates, Ecology Fund, and Care2.

Visiting these sites is a great difference maker activity you can participate in yourself, with friends, or organize a group at school. If you register with the some of the sites, they will track your progress so you can see how much of a difference you are making. It only takes a few

minutes each day before the effect starts to add up. For example, there are only a few people in the SLTP group at Ecology Fund, but we have already preserved 131,000 square feet of land. I encourage you to visit these sites daily and support their sponsors.

Links to the aforementioned sites and others can be found at: <http://www.sltp.info/resources/ctd/>

## The ReE what's happening?

- ◆ Four separate action tracks for students, for collegians, for parents and for advisers with skillshops designed for each.
- ◆ A new theatrical presentation addressing **inclusion** and **diversity** and confronting the issues facing student leaders that those subjects create
- ◆ An ideation session to develop student action plans
- ◆ Celebration of Champions for Youth from across our region
- ◆ A massive Activity Fair offering ideas, explaining programs and providing opportunities for student leaders
- ◆ Election of the state representatives to the Alumni Association

## Skillshops for Collegiate Student Leaders

Collegians have widely different leadership possibilities, opportunities and difficulties than do their high school counterparts. Fundamentally the roles converge in theory but are widely divergent when it comes to application.

The high school and collegiate skillshops at the ReE will examine the same skill sets, but from very different viewpoints.

The topics are Communication and Project Planning. The

collegiate skillshops will address these skill sets from the point of view of the reality of everyday campus life. For example, in high school communication to the entire student body can take the form of a morning announcement — which is hardly possible in a college setting.

Although it may seem weird for any collegian to be up and in “class” that early on a Saturday, we promise it will be

worthwhile. We plan to provide the motivational booster shot to carry you through finals and into second semester.

Please make sure when you register that you add the word “college” to the registration form, as well as the name of the school that you attend.

## Parent, Principal and Adviser Programs at the ReE

There will be a special presentation for parents, advisers and principals at the ReEnergizer Conference. Our own Dr. Jim Fitzgerald will present “Helping teens to help teens who are hurting.”

Today’s student leaders face very real challenges and need real support systems to be able to “take back their schools.” Jim will share what he has learned traveling around the country from successful practitioners of student based activity programs.

We offer these session not only because many advisers, principals and parents do the driving to get our students to the ReE, but we offer them because we want to do more to enable our student leaders to develop as much as possible.

The aim of the special workshops for advisers and principals is simple. We hope to inform and encourage every principal and adviser to maximize the development of their student leadership. Additionally there are special workshops for parents that are geared to

their needs as the parents of student leaders.

We will also provide both groups a “peek behind the curtain,” which will enable them to better understand the environment we create at SLTP and how they might be best able to empower their student leaders.

Please encourage your principal and adviser to attend (and to drive). We think you will be glad that they did.



