ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017

Where leadership is a process, not a position.
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A Message from the Director

Michael Duncan

Life isn’t about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself.

~George Bernard Shaw

Shaw’s quote expresses what we try to assist our students accomplish through their connection to the Higdon Student Leadership Center. Through our leadership programming, we help students recognize who they are and support them in creating what they can become. Guidance and encouragement of an investment of time and energy towards self-empowerment, responsible citizenship, and holistic development is inherent in all we do. Our student participants, along with their assistance in planning our programming inspire and motivate us daily.

This year’s Annual Report highlights how the continued success of our core programming, Leadership CofC, Fall Leadership Conference, the Institute by LeaderShape, and Cougar Excursion play an integral part in providing our students a leadership outlet to live, learn, and grow. After seeing this report, I think you will agree that the Center continues to affect our student’s college experience in a positive way.

Also in this publication, you’ll see how Dance Marathon (DM) continues forward on their path to raise $150,000 within three years for a named room in the new Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital at the Medical University of South Carolina. Additionally, we note our continuing high school student leadership initiative through our partnership with the South Carolina chapter of the Jefferson Awards Foundation.

Lastly, our program assessment data continues to demonstrate strong student satisfaction for our programming and that learning is happening. We are proud of the value and influence our leadership development efforts have on the CofC culture for so many students. We hope that you enjoy reading about it and thank you for your continued support.

Michael Duncan
Incoming freshmen are given the opportunity each August to attend Cougar Excursion (CE). Participants enjoy three days of leadership development, training, and good fun and are able to form friendships with new peers and make connections with 30 upper-class students who serve as staff facilitators for the program. These student leaders are some of the most involved students on our campus and serve in capacities throughout the campus community. Selected by an application and interview process, these leaders volunteer their time solely to help teach participants what they need to know in order to succeed at the College.

### Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have the necessary knowledge to begin my freshman year at the College of Charleston.</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am aware of the diversity that exists in today’s multicultural society.</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am aware of relational and transformational leadership.</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am aware of my strengths and areas of development.</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can identify, commit to, and act consistently with my core values.</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Influential faculty and staff attend CE to meet participants, with a hope of creating meaningful and lasting connections with them. A highlight of CE 2016 was when Page Keller, Director of Peer Education and Support Programs, shared her success strategies for incoming freshmen.

As one of the core components of the Leadership Center’s programming, this interactive experience is specifically designed so participants gain knowledge and develop a sense of community that is pertinent to a successful first year at the College. Based on model programs from colleges across the nation, this program has proven to enhance the student experience, better a student’s chance at finding a home here and ensure academic success along with a higher GPA.

Also, participants tend to be more satisfied overall with their college experience than those who have not attended such programs. Through their participation in Cougar Excursion, the students’ natural leadership talents begin to transform into skill sets that are pivotal to mastering their freshman year and beyond.

“Great experience! Amazing! You will have a blast!”
“I loved how many people I connected with and I know that the friends I made here will always be here for me. I wouldn’t change anything.”
“Coming from a summer camp where we do all the same leadership aspects, I was very impressed. Well done and Thank you!”
Assessment and Participation

Based on internal designed pre and post assessments administered for the programs Cougar Excursion, Leadership CofC, The Institute by LeaderShape, and the Fall Leadership Conference, we can infer an increase in an awareness of growth for the participants. The growth percentage for select Leadership Center learning goals is illustrated in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Goals</th>
<th>Cougar Excursion</th>
<th>Leadership CofC</th>
<th>The Institute</th>
<th>Fall Leadership Conference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learn to empower self by discovering one’s strengths and areas of development and achievement of goals.</td>
<td>+3%</td>
<td>+33%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>+43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand the development and application of relational and transformational leadership through experiential learning.</td>
<td>+33%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarify, internalize, and live congruently one’s own values.</td>
<td>No change</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>+36%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build meaningful interpersonal relationships through exercising effective communication and teamwork.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>+24%</td>
<td>+59%</td>
<td>+25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Realize their personal leadership style.</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>+26%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>+28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Higdon Student Leadership Center has directly or indirectly affected over 1,000 students this past year through our programs and community outreach workshops and presentations.

Program Attendance
Cougar Excursion - 130
Fall Leadership Conference – 85
Leadership CofC - 54
Institute by LeaderShape - 36
SALA Awards – 36
Leadership Certificate Program - 20
Dance Marathon - 300
Omicron Delta Kappa - 15

Campus/Community Outreach
Workshops and Presentations
Resident Assistants and RHDs - 122
High School Conference (Jefferson Awards Foundation Students in Action) - 200
Greek Leadership Institute - 60
Omicron Delta Kappa

Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) is a national collegiate honor society that recognizes and encourages achievement in leadership and service in extracurricular activities. ODK initiated over 1,000 students, faculty, and staff at the College of Charleston between 1975 and 2001, when it became inactive. In 2011, the staff of the Higdon Student Leadership Center, along with several student leaders, implemented plans to re-build the chapter on campus and house it in the Leadership Center.

Since the fall of 2011, ODK has initiated over 135 new members with a gain of 15 students this year. Maria Carrillo-Marquina and Adriana Velasquez were selected to be the President and Vice President respectively for the upcoming year. This spring, the CofC chapter President, along with Associate Director of the Higdon Center, Diane Cumbie, took part in the chartering ceremony for the Citadel’s new chapter and established a new relationship for future potential chapter collaborations.

Leadership Certificate Program

With guidance from the Higdon Student Leadership Center staff, this program helps students successfully set and accomplish their leadership goals, increase skill development, as well as effectively articulate and apply their abilities to leadership areas in their lives.

Some of the requirements of the program include: attend at least two Leadership Conferences as well as approved professional development workshops, hold a leadership position on campus, and complete a personal leadership artifact. The reflection project is displayed at the SALA Awards event and at the Center for the next year.

Wanda Willis, Leadership Certificate Program recipient
Leadership CofC is a prestigious cohort of juniors and seniors selected to learn about leadership through a commitment to monthly on-campus or off-campus programs. Most students are nominated for the program by faculty and staff. Nominees then complete a rigorous application and interview process. This year, over 80 students interviewed for a spot in the cohort of 54 students.

The cohort members expand their personal development through exposure to leadership topics presented by professionals from various areas of expertise. Expert hosts for 2016-17 included leaders in business from The South Carolina Ports Authority that included a guided tour of Wando Terminal; conservation and preservation advocacy members from the Coastal Conservation League, Charleston Waterkeeper, and Historic Charleston Foundation; Alumni leaders from Boeing, Cisco, Campbell Soup Company and start-ups as well as an evening with the Mayor’s office that welcomed councilman Rodney Williams. These evenings include food with casual discussion, guest panel discussion and cohort group Q & A. At times, a post-panel discussion dessert reception is held to allow for personal conversation and one-on-one questions.
Lois Hearn, seasoned etiquette professional, kicked off the year and set a foundation of professional etiquette used at all events through her dinner etiquette and standing reception etiquette coaching as well as sharing networking tips at the incomparable Peninsula Grill.

The Ports Authority graciously re-scheduled their bus tour and talk after being disrupted by Hurricane Matthew. Our spring event hosted leadership from their various departments who shared lessons about how work life balance is tough and goals and aspirations sometimes require sacrifices.

Councilman Rodney Williams challenged students to consider their citizen involvement and provided insight and real talk about the demands of elected positions.

At the Final Night Banquet, keynote Jim Allison, Executive Director for Career Services, shared his insights about job searches and other details along with students who shared their take away lessons from the various events.

### Featured Program Details

**Cohort Pre and Post Test Outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before: 50% After: 96.88%</th>
<th>Reported comfort level when networking with seasoned, respected leaders.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before: 56% After: 99%</td>
<td>Reported understanding of leadership best practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before: 60% After: 93%</td>
<td>Reported understanding of interpersonal competence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Before: 64% After: 100%</td>
<td>Reported level of knowledge about professionalism held before and after the events completed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Student Perspectives

“Without Leadership CofC and Student Government involvement at CofC, I probably would not have found a direction to follow.”

*Jonathan Solomon, Class of 2017*
Institute

Students participated in the **2017 Institute**, held May 7-12 at Camp Bob Cooper on Lake Marion in Summerton, SC. The program is developed and promoted by LeaderShape, Inc. based out of Champaign, IL. The Leadership Center hosts one campus based session of the Institute for the College. This was our eleventh year hosting the Institute!

Framed by a nationally used curriculum, the Institute states it’s for individuals who are committed to taking their leadership to the next level and who want to make a significant impact on campus, in their communities, and in the world.

As well as being an opportunity to develop skills to improve their organizations, participants praise the Institute as a time of great introspection. The week is structured so that participants first gain a deeper understanding of themselves and then how to effectively work with others.

The program includes a half-day facilitated outdoor team building experience; a Guest Leader Forum in which participants are exposed to role models in business, industry, education, and other professions; quality facilitators from a variety of backgrounds; and learning and sharing in small groups or Family Clusters.

This year’s Guest Leader Forum featured College of Charleston Board of Trustees Ms. Demetria Clemons and Vice-President for Administration, Mr. Paul Patrick. Trustee Clemons and Mr. Patrick shared their visioning for success and leadership insights with participants.

The week culminates with a “Breakthrough Blueprint”, a well-conceived vision and plan of action for the participants to consider implementing back in their organization or community.

Thank you to the members of our CofC family who dedicated their week to ensure this program was incredible this year.

**On-Site Coordinator**
Dylan Mazelis, Program Coordinator at HSLC

**Family Cluster Facilitators**
Mike Antoine, Office Manager, Student Affairs
Morgan Esarey, AmeriCorps VISTA, Center for Civic Engagement
Angel Parson, Assistant Director, Student Life Services and Events
Joe Vallee, Area Coordinator, Residence Life
Increased learning and growth of knowledge happens through the introduction and discussion of the following core Institute curriculum topics: **identifying core ethical and personal values, congruence of behavior to values, developing relationships with others, respect and dignity of others, working successfully in groups, crafting a vision, and articulating action steps to accomplish vision.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes (% of students that report Strongly Agree)</th>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have tools/skills to empower others and myself.</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can easily inspire others to work towards a common goal.</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know how to accomplish goals.</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership behavior can be incorporated into everyday life by anyone.</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I can define my values.</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know how to incorporate my values into my leadership style.</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know how to incorporate integrity into my daily life.</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I understand how to take constructive criticism and make positive changes.</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership is about meaningful interpersonal relationships.</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership is about possibility, vision, and action.</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Perspective**

“The most important lesson I took from LeaderShape was understanding my own personal core values and being able to incorporate them into a plan of action. I recognized what I am passionate about and how I can transform this experience to enhance this upcoming school year. It also enabled me to understand my own identity and the positive effect I want to have in the future.”

*Lienne Barrise – 2017 Institute Participant*
SALA Awards

The 13th Annual Student Activism and Leadership Achievement Awards and Reception was held at the Student Stern Center on Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

SALA recognizes and honors outstanding students and staff that contributed time and energy to improve our campus and their communities. Through their leadership and accomplishments, they have brought distinction to the College of Charleston.

The SALA Awards and Reception also provides a venue for the Division of Student Affairs and Student Government Association to present their own awards to students. The event recognized four first-year students with the New Student Leader Award, 13 students with the Cistern Award and one Advisor of the Year recipient. Seventeen students from varying organizations were inducted into the Higdon Student Leadership Center’s Hall of Leaders. Additionally, one student completed the Leadership Certificate Program. The event was a wonderful way to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and staff!
Advisor of the Year

This award recognizes a faculty or staff advisor who has consistently demonstrated a commitment to student development and leadership practice while fostering such growth in students.

Dave McDonough

Cistern Award

Cistern Award recognizes senior students who have been motivated and engaged contributors to an organization.

Kaitlin Burt
Will Dube
Megan Dunn
Michael Faikes
Jasmine Gil

Justine Hall
Virginia McCaughey
Alexis Parrot
Houston Pearce

Carly Phillips
Alejandra Rios
Hannah Syfrett
Odies Turner

New Student Leader

This award recognizes first-year students who contributed time and energy to learn about leadership and contribute to our community.

Madison Beckman
Covington Carlson
Tripp Keeffe
Jon Knox

Hall of Leaders

Hall of Leaders recognizes a member of particular student organizations that has specific governing responsibilities and who has made a continuous contribution to the campus.

Alternative Break - Laura Taylor
Bonner Leader Program - Anjali Naik
CisternYard Media - Alexis Armour
CisternYard News - Courtney Eker
CisternYard Radio - Donovan Taylor
CisternYard Video - Matthew Gordner
Cougar Activities Board - Sarah Coombs
Cougar Counseling Team - Chandler Massengale
Dance Marathon - Katie Kolat

Honor Board - Emily Beck
Interfraternity Council - Will Dube
Miscellany Literary and Art Journal - McKayla Conahan
National Pan-Hellenic Council - Odies Turner
Panhellenic Association - Kaitlin Burt
Prism - Tessa Torgovitsky
Residence Hall Association - David Zimmerman
Student Government Assoc. - Michael Faikes
Volunteer Corps - Brianna Heupel
Held annually since 2007, the Fall Leadership Conference provides students an opportunity to learn valuable lessons from discussions with professionals on campus and from the community. On Saturday, October 15th, at College of Charleston’s Stern Student Center, over 80 College of Charleston students attended the tenth annual Fall Leadership Conference. There were two rotations of educational sessions available to attendees, which was followed by the keynote speaker, Hoan Do.

### Presentations

- **Dissecting Cultural Entitlement and Privilege as a Pathway to Quality Leadership** with Talim Lessane
- **Leadership Style and the Campus Community** with Michael Antoine
- **Leading with Purpose** with Laura McMaster
- **Bridging the Gap Between Service, Activism, and Politics** with Domenico Ruggerio
- **Where’s YOUR Leadership Voice** with Jason Torres
- **The Importance of Self Awareness in Developing Your Strengths** with Christopher Covert

### Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am aware of my personal strengths and areas that need development.</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am aware of my personal leadership style.</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td><strong>95%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know how to build interpersonal relationships with others.</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal relationships are built through effective communication and teamwork.</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About the Keynote

Hoan Do is a student success coach, author, and competitor in the NBC hit show, American Ninja Warrior.

Recognized as the Best Youth Mentor through the International Examiner’s Reader’s Choice Awards, Hoan travels across North America speaking at colleges, high schools, and associations to share practical advice that helps students to succeed in school and in the real world.

Hoan’s young enough to relate to students, yet old enough to provide life changing advice. His engaging style and ability to share important life lessons in a way that students resonate with has earned him the Verizon Wireless Motivator Award. Learn more about him at www.HoanDo.com

Student Perspective

“Gave me inspiration and a positive perspective of life and my future.”

“Awesome! So glad I came!”

“Thank you for the wonderful opportunity to not only learn, but develop. I have learned more about myself and this really will continue to help me throughout the semester. Big Shout Out to Hoan Do!”
Dance Marathon

Dance Marathon 2017 was held on Saturday, February 18th at CofC’s TD Arena. Dance Marathon benefits the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Children’s Hospital. This year, over 200 participants combined their efforts to raise more than $51,000! This amount includes over $13,000 that was raised in one day alone, as students stayed on their feet for over 13 hours as part of their fundraising efforts. Several families from MUSC attended the event to allow students time to visit with these incredible children and hear their moving and inspiring stories.

Dance Marathon at the College of Charleston is on track for their three year goal to raise a total of $150,000 towards the construction of a brand new building for the Shawn Jenkins Children’s Hospital. In the facility, a room will be named in their honor if they meet their goal.

With only about a quarter of the total left to fundraise, DM 2018 is sure to be an exciting one!

College of Charleston held its first Dance Marathon on February 9th, 2007 with 100 participants raising $21,000. Since then, it remains the single largest student-run philanthropic event at the College, with over 3,300 students having participated and over $560,000 raised for the Medical University of South Carolina’s Children’s Hospital over 10 years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$51,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

74% of the way to 150,000!
Student Spotlight - Jake Tucker

Jake Tucker, class of 2017, was actively involved with many aspects of the Higdon Student Leadership Center. He was a Cougar Excursion Facilitator in 2015 and the Executive Director in 2016. “When I think of the position of Executive Director, I do not think of a person with all the power. Instead, I think of the amazing people it allowed me to work with. Spending a year building a team, planning Cougar Excursion, and executing it flawlessly, makes one understand just what the position entails. Countless hours and a few late nights were spent huddled behind a computer on the 4th floor of the building to ensure that everything was perfect for the next training or team building event. Cougar Excursion is not just a new student program but one that fosters relationships that last through commencement. As the executive director, I feel that I added aspects to the program that can be used to help the next set of students as they start their journey at the College of Charleston.”

Additionally, Tucker was selected to represent the Higdon Student Leadership Center on numerous occasions. He was a presenter at the High School Conference in 2015, 2016 and 2017, spoke at a Board of Trustees meeting in 2016 and served as a panel presenter in 2017 for the Parents Advisory Council (PAC). He also volunteered his time to help out at various HSLC programs each year including SALA and the Fall Leadership Conference.

About the center, Tucker continues, “The Higdon Student Leadership center is the backbone of the College of Charleston. Each day, the door is open to students who have an insatiable appetite to become a better leader in a changing world. Through the countless opportunities that the center provided me, I have become a better speaker, thinker, and have gained leadership aspects that you cannot find in a book. Hands on training and in depth conversations with any and all staff allows for growth through mentorship and not simple teaching. This allows the information to go deeper and really stick at the core where leadership resides.”

From Charleston, SC, Tucker’s future plans include working as an EMT with Charleston County EMS and becoming a medical student in 2018.
Student’s Spotlight

Alexandra Helfgott and Tripp Keeffe

Alexandra Helfgott (’19) and Tripp Keeffe (’20) met through the Higdon Student Leadership Center (HSLC) when they attended Cougar Excursion (CE), our freshmen transition program, in August of 2016. CE was a catalyst for their friendship that would lead to other positive experiences at College of Charleston. Less than a year after meeting at Cougar Excursion, Helfgott and Keeffe launched a successful bid for Student Body President and Vice President at the College of Charleston.

Helfgott comments “I participated in Cougar Excursion (CE) in 2015, served as a facilitator in 2016, and I am looking forward to returning as a facilitator this fall. Cougar Excursion has introduced me to lifelong friends and illustrated firsthand the terrific opportunities offered by both HSLC and the College as a whole. Had I not been involved with Cougar Excursion, I’m not sure that Tripp and I would have ever met, let alone ran a campaign for Student Body President and Vice President together. We recently attended LeaderShape which was such a valuable opportunity to further develop and hone-in on our leadership skills and meet fellow CofC students.”

Keeffe first learned about the Higdon Student Leadership Center when he attended Cougar Excursion. He learned more about the services and programs the center offered through his involvement with the Student Government Association (SGA). SGA executive board meetings are held weekly at the Higdon Student Leadership Center where Michael Duncan, director of the Higdon Student Leadership Center, serves as the SGA advisor.

Keeffe comments, “Cougar Excursion was a fantastic experience. It gave me an opportunity to meet great new friends and have that social network in place coming into my college experience. It also gave me a network of individuals I could contact to become more involved on the campus. For instance, I met our student government advisor Michael Duncan at CE and this introduced me to student government. I also met Alexandra for the first time and gained her as a friend and a mentor. So truly, without CE, I would not have had the same excellent experience I had here at CofC my first year and I wouldn’t be where I am today.

In addition to the social connections I’ve already mentioned, being involved with the HSLC has given me greater confidence in my own leadership abilities and given me a sense of self assurance that has enabled me to be successful here at college.”

Helfgott continues “HSLC fosters numerous opportunities for students to learn more about leadership, to challenge themselves and further grow as leaders, and to prepare them to make a tangible impact on the College of Charleston campus. I am very grateful for the guidance and support that HSLC has provided and I can truly say that my collegiate experience would not be the same had I not participated in the programs offered by the center.”
High School Conference

Students in Action Program

The Higdon Student Leadership Center was involved with the annual SC Fall and Winter Leadership Conferences of the Jefferson Awards Foundation Students in Action program for 200 coastal high school students. These conferences empower students to support a social cause they are passionate about. On October 28th, CofC students Katie Kolat, Ebony Venson and Jake Tucker presented at the conference at MUSC. On February 10th, CofC students Ebony Venson, Jake Tucker, Savannah Crocker, Lienne Barrise and Hassam Solano-Morel presented at the College of Charleston’s Stern Student Center. This was the second year the HSLS worked with the Jefferson Awards Foundation, a national recognition system that honors community service and educates students how to successfully implement their initiatives.

We are excited to continue building on the strong foundation of new programs at CofC to work with high school students committed to social good for our community.

Students from various high schools enjoying good fellowship while learning about leadership.

Thanks to the leadership staff for another great year!

Pictured left to right: Brenda Evitt, Administrative Coordinator Diane Cumbie, Associate Director Dylan Mazelis, Program Coordinator