

**Information for Academic Advisors
whose advisees intend to pursue the CALS Leadership Certificate**

(you may wish to read this prior to signing your advisee's *Intent to Earn the Leadership Certificate* form)

The CALS Leadership Certificate was created for several reasons. A core mission of the university is to prepare the next generation of leaders in the professions, business, government and voluntary associations. The vast majority of CALS undergraduates already have experience in leadership roles, and they will continue to assume leadership roles throughout their careers. The intent of the Certificate is to enhance their development as good leaders.

In 2003 the officers of the CALS Student Council requested that the College develop a leadership program for students. Through more than 60 individual and group meetings, a large number of CALS faculty and staff have agreed that teaching leadership is important, and have identified and agreed upon a core set of leadership skills and knowledge that students should possess. This Certificate, which will be issued by the College, will recognize acquisition of this set of skills and knowledge.

The Leadership Certificate is competency-based and has a strong experiential component, making it different from a University transcript certificate (which typically requires 16-20 course credits). The Leadership Certificate requires that students build conceptual knowledge through courses, independent reading, workshops, conferences or the dozens of other ways that knowledge can be gained. It also requires that students practice leadership, because concepts take deeper meaning when practiced or observed in a real-life setting. The blending of concepts and practice will provide a rich learning experience for the students.

By signing your advisee's *Intent to Earn the CALS Leadership Certificate* you are simply acknowledging that you are aware of your advisee's plans to pursue the certificate. Your advisee will have a Leadership Mentor (a CALS faculty or staff member) who will guide him/her through the certificate program. The Mentor will serve as a sounding board to help your advisee think through his/her learning and find meaning in what he/she has read, observed and practiced. Encouraging your advisee to pursue this certificate should create no additional work for you, unless you choose to talk with your advisee about leadership in general, his/her certificate activities and progress, or how leadership relates to the major, the profession or your advisee's career plans.

For more information on the certificate or to learn about becoming a leadership mentor, please visit <http://www.cals.wisc.edu/students/leadership/> or contact Richard Barrows rbarrows@cals.wisc.edu or Christina Klawitter cklawitter@cals.wisc.edu, 262-3003.

Thank you for your help.