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“We Lead by the Rule”: How the Benedictine, Catholic Tradition Can Prepare Students for Leadership

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**ASACCU Proposal for Presentation
March 29, 2019**

Primary Presenter

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Presentation Title

“We lead by the *Rule*”: How the Benedictine, Catholic Tradition Can Prepare Students for Leadership

Brief Description

This presentation describes Saint Martin's University's newly implemented credit-bearing leadership certificate program, called the *Benedictine Leaders Program* (BLP). A partnership between Student Affairs and Academics, BLP draws from the *Rule of St. Benedictine*, the Benedictine values, and the Benedictine, Catholic mission and identity of the university to help students develop into courageous, moral leaders who can address the issues facing our shared humanity. In this presentation, we share how BLP developed from a series of workshops to a three credit leadership certificate program instructed by Student Affairs staff. Our motto for the program reflects the influence of our Benedictine charism: “We lead by the *Rule*.” We explain the key components of BLP and offer strategies to help Student Affairs staff build partnerships with Academics to implement a credit-bearing leadership program on their own campus.

Connection to the Conference Theme

The proposed presentation meets the conference theme “Taking Flight: Developing Leaders for the Common Good” in the following two ways. First, there is an obvious connection between our proposal and the conference theme of leadership. Our aim is to describe BLP as a leadership program that integrates the concepts of leadership theory and practice with our distinctive, Catholic identity. Students who develop the knowledge and skills of leadership at Catholic universities bring a unique understanding of leadership. We emphasize the idea that leaders must reflect on how their own gifts and talents meet the deep problems of the world. Second, our proposal connects to the theme's phrase of *developing leaders*. We have designed a credit-bearing program that can better foster the development of students by allowing them appropriate space and time to deepen their understanding and practice of leadership. BLP begins with foundational concepts and moves to leadership and praxis.

Promotion of “Principles of Good Practice in Student Affairs”

This presentation meets the following principles:

- (1) Enriches student integration of faith and reason through the provision of co-curricular learning.
- (2) Creates opportunities for students to experience, reflect, and act from a commitment to justice, mercy, and compassion, and in light of Catholic social teaching to develop respect and responsibility for all, especially those most in need.

Presentation Content, Outline, and Delivery

The content and outline of the presentation will focus on the components of the *Benedictine Leaders Program*. This includes the following: (1) a description of the history of BLP, including how it progressed from non-credit-bearing to credit-bearing leadership program; (2) an explanation of how BLP is informed by the *Rule of St. Benedict*, Benedictine values, and mission and identity of Saint Martin's; (3) a synthesis of BLP's utilization the Benedictine, Catholic tradition and the goals and learning outcomes of the program; (4) an analysis of our assessment and student learning process, including the program's use of e-portfolio; and (5) a summary of strategies that can help participants develop their own leadership programs. The delivery of the presentation will include PowerPoint, discussion, and activities. Participants will also engage in activities that are expected of students who participate in leadership.

Intended Audience/Presentation Requirements

Intended audience includes the following: Seasoned and new professions in Student Affairs; faculty and academic deans; and graduate students/undergraduate students. The presentation requires a PC compatible computer and projector. Room setup can be lecture style.

Co-presenter:

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