**Student & Guest Quotes**

“PLP is such an exciting program! The opportunity for students to interact with business leaders and discuss the challenges they face is unparalleled. These discussions go way beyond the academic and provide hands-on opportunities for students to grow as leaders.” Kathie Leslie, Class of 1983, Director of Personnel Operations, Lutron Electronics

“I have had irreplaceable experiences networking with corporate guests, performing various conflict management analyses, and dissecting how to be an effective leader.” Julianne Bass, Class of 2009

“PLP is one of the best programs offered not just by the Archer Center but by Rensselaer. Having been a guest in the program almost since its inception, I have seen so many benefits for the participants over the years that I only wish all Rensselaer students could take the program.” Judith Barnes, Entrepreneur, Educator, and Writer

“The PLP program introduced me to a like-minded social group of friends that I know I can rely on for future entrepreneurial opportunities.” Daniel P. Hashim, Class of 2009

“My favorite PLP activities were those that involved teamwork and creative thinking with my classmates, notably developing a business plan around actual pizza making.” Kristy Kolb, Class of 2009

**To Apply:**

Submit the following information to the Archer Center for Student Leadership Development, 2232 Academy Hall.

- Resume
- Cover letter expressing what makes you an ideal candidate for the PLP
- Completed reference from someone who can speak to your leadership abilities
- List of campus involvement activities (i.e., clubs, societies, athletics, Greek affiliations, community service, work-study, on-campus jobs, and extracurricular activities or projects you have been involved in during your tenure at RPI and/or transfer institution)

Contact the PLP director for more information or visit our Web site:

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The Professional Leadership Program (PLP) is a full year interactive training program emphasizing management and leadership competencies. Admission is selective, drawing from a pool including the most advanced and committed students and student leaders on campus. The PLP recruits candidates who envision a future where they are fully engaged and actively influential in their career and life pursuits.

Since 1979, more than 1,200 students have completed the PLP and gone on to apply the benefits professionally. Continually responsive to workplace and societal changes, the program remains an unparalleled bridge from the Rensselaer educational experience to the lifetime professional experience.

**Mission**

This course is designed to emulate a professional environment, with a special emphasis placed on applying leadership skills to the workplace.

Through interactive learning, students are exposed to specific leadership theories and skills including ethical decision making, developing vision, motivation techniques, and tools to succeed in a diverse organizational culture.

An experiential approach is utilized to provide students with the opportunity to practice and enhance their leadership styles.

**Benefits**

The PLP allows students to:

☑ Assess their professional strengths and interests
☑ Explore and develop their ability to engage and motivate others
☑ Meet, interact, and network with each other and corporate executives
☑ Learn to function in the evolving context in which a leader operates

**Choice**

The application and selection process is an important part of the experience. Selecting only highly motivated and capable students who share a common interest in leadership encourages excellence in discussion and programmatic quality.

Each spring semester, sophomores and juniors from all academic disciplines are invited to submit a resume, cover letter, and a reference from the campus community. However, the primary tool for applicant review is a comprehensive interview during which students must persuasively illustrate what they expect to achieve from the PLP and also what they, as participants, would offer the program and other participants.

**Challenge**

The PLP challenge day is a Saturday or Sunday in September when the new class participates in a low and/or high ropes adventure training retreat. Each adventure initiative is designed to promote trust, respect, recognition of the value of differences, and ability to actively engage with the group. Alumni consistently cite the retreat as a powerful start to the program.

**Engagement With the Professional Community**

PLP classes meet on Tuesday evenings for approximately ten weeks each semester. Most sessions include a corporate guest, many of whom are RPI alumni. Past representatives include Goldman Sachs, Vanguard Group, ExxonMobil, Deloitte Consulting, Procter & Gamble, and many more. Guests focus on a particular leadership or professional development skill/model. While the topics covered reflect current leadership practices in technological disciplines and industries, the PLP sessions quickly move discussion and analysis to new levels—rarely found in undergraduate experiences.

**Professional Direction**

Students who complete the program refer to the experience as one that guided their professional interests and eventual career path. Frequent and varied exposure to technical professionals, leaders, and experienced managers yields confidence and comfort in professional environments. PLP alumni are able to assess and evaluate career and job options with insight and expertise unusual at the undergraduate level.

In 2004, the Professional Leadership Alumni Network (PLAN) was formed as a way to formalize the connections and informal network that had occurred during the program.