

Engage! Weekly- Week of 10/8/2007

Rollins College Named the Most Engaged Campus in Florida

Congratulations to YOU---Rollins College students, faculty and staff! Because of the quality of community service, leadership development, service-learning, and community-based scholarship taking place at Rollins, our community was named the Most Engaged Campus in Florida by Florida Campus Compact.

Out of 51 colleges, universities and community colleges who are members of Florida Campus Compact, Rollins College received the "top award" as the institution most committed to serving as an engaged campus for 2007.

Service and Leadership Immersion

A Collective Reflection by: Siobhan Philbin, Cosette Floyd, and John Moore

I have been camping in the Ocala forest a number of times as a form of relaxation. So when I discovered I could not only camp but utilize and learn leadership skills from and with other leaders I was ready!

Leadership is a new discovery for me. Rollins has opened my eyes to a new aspect of leadership our college is all about leadership and creating a global community; this school walks the walk and talks the talk. Cliche I know, but what else can be said about an institution that actually practices their mission statement to the highest level?

I must admit as I looked over the itinerary I was a bit concerned that I would be bored so I brought with me an array of books to curb my boredom. Would you believe the only time I found time to read was on the bus ride?! We were busy every single day and well into the evening! The activities were awesome, covering social activities meant to break the ice and to encourage friendships as well as activities used to get us to think about how we saw the world from the eyes of leaders. The facilitators thought of everything!

On the trail, I felt anxiety due to excitement of embarking on a new adventure. I like to get things done so I took my work on the trail seriously. I was focused and imagined myself being in a wheelchair wanting to experience the smells, sounds and sights of the trail hindered by nothing. Everyone worked as a team and everyone took the initiative to make suggestions help out another leader if they saw the opportunity. The facilitators were not there observing and directing us, they were just as hot, sweaty and dirty as everyone else!

Additionally, we learned about leadership and how to apply these qualities in our lives. Teamwork was highlighted as the co-operation between those who are working together on a task; together on the trail we did this harmoniously. Various avenues of community service were discussed; this provided us all an opportunity to reflect on how we can be more involved. Surely the work was rewarding as we broadened the pathway for ALL to enjoy the trail. We shared jokes, played games, sang songs, danced, talked, listened, received education, reflected, and enjoyed nature.

This experience gave me the opportunity to reflect on what I want out of life. It allowed me to step away from the stress and pressure of college and look at it from a different perspective. I had the opportunity to apply what I had learned in some of my classes to the leadership aspects of this trip. I truly am a stealth leader; at least I think I am. I learned that I have the strength and ability to get through difficult tasks or obstacles. I also learned that you can make some great friends, no matter your age!!

Upon departing we all said our typical goodbyes and went our separate ways. The goodbyes were not goodbyes at all; it was actually goodbye to that adventure in order to make room for the next. We have and will keep in touch with one another because that is what leaders do!