



Youth Leadership in Action[®]

A Multi-Phased, Comprehensive, and Scalable Approach to Leadership Development for K-12 Students

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J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development

- Unit of Public Service and Outreach at UGA
- Strengthens communities, individuals, and organizations through leadership development
- Developing community and youth leaders
 - Of all ages
 - In every community
 - From all walks of life
- Multi-disciplinary faculty focused on leadership development and work within the nonprofit sector to help leaders solve critical problems and prepare communities for job creation and prosperity.





Youth Leadership in Action[®]

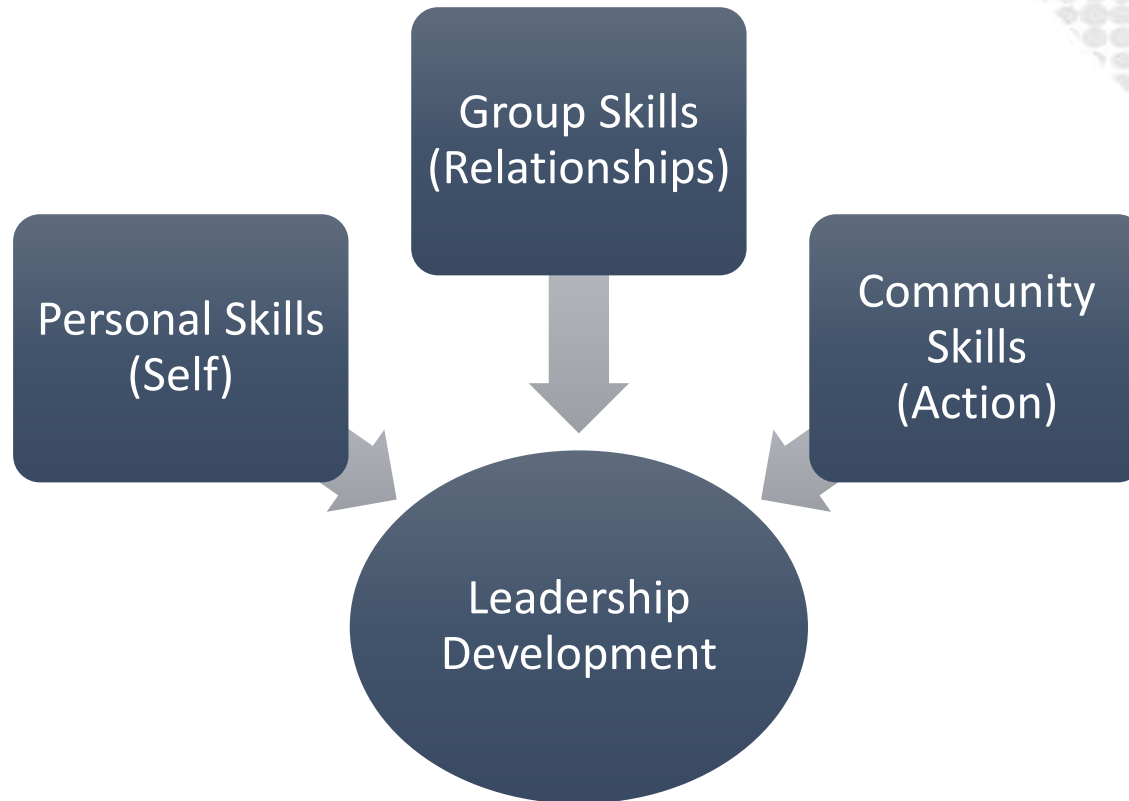
- First edition – 1996
 - Collaboration with Georgia 4-H Program
 - Empower local community members
- Rewritten and Expanded – 2014
- Vertically aligned
- Customizable Content
- Authentic youth engagement and voice





Youth Leadership in Action[®]

Research-based framework



Foundations of Leadership (K-5)



- Introduction to Leadership Principles
- Two separate activity guides
 - Primary grades (K-2nd)
 - Elementary grades (3rd-5th)
- Piloted system-wide in Colquitt County, 2015-2016

Early experiences create the foundation for future leadership development for two main reasons: the greater ability for development to occur at a young age and the self-reinforcing nature of leader development

Murphy and Johnson, 2011

Collaborative Leadership (6-8)



- Team-based leadership and authentic problem solving
- Collaboration with Barrow County Schools
- Complements Project-Based Learning (PBL)
- Preparing students to be successful in high school

Employers rank soft skills such as teamwork, collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving as “very important” to job performance yet rank high school graduate’s preparation as only “adequate” or “deficient” in these abilities.

Partnership for 21st Century Skills (2006)



Community Leadership (9-12)



- 89 community youth development programs statewide
- College-immersion programs
- Integrates authentic youth voice and civic engagement
- Affects school climate and student achievement

Civic participation in the form of community leadership and participation in decision making predicts positive social outcomes, such as a greater sense of community membership and helps youth overcome the disrespect that permeate adults' interactions with youth

Zeldin, 2004; Stoneman, 2002



Career Leadership SMARTS



- **S**tudents **M**anaging **A**ll **R**esources **T**oday for **S**uccess
- Workforce preparation through leadership development
- Collaboration with the Technical College System of Georgia
- Piloted at two College and Career Academy sites

A mindset of leadership, combining ability with authority and impetus to act, may be the missing ingredient to create a sense of initiative in the emerging workforce to make soft skills stick.

MacNeil (2006)



WGHS Steering Committee

- (Vision) ***To cultivate critically aware, creative problem solvers prepared to navigate postsecondary challenges and opportunities.***
Student Voice (do the impossible when they know someone cares)
- ***Success of School Culture is based on what is best for kids (see hear and feel experience)*** never underestimate the worth of listening to kids and hearing what they value
- Impact in School -***1/3-student performance/1/3-community influence/1/3-Home***
- Reaching the Unrepresented (expose every student)
- Impact of that influence?



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Research-based content



Meets Georgia educational standards



Experiential learning format



Customizable content



Activities for all types of learners



Vertically aligned



Technology integration



Adaptable for different audiences

Elementary School: Foundations of Leadership

- ▶ Introduction to leadership principles
- ▶ Focus on school engagement
- ▶ Curriculum and activity guides for K-2 and 3-5 classroom delivery

Middle School: Collaborative Leadership

- ▶ Focus on team-based learning to develop leadership skills
- ▶ Engages students in authentic problem-solving
- ▶ Includes professional development for teachers to integrate leadership into instruction

High School: Community Leadership

- ▶ Focus on civic and community engagement
- ▶ Continues the pipeline into adult leadership
- ▶ Prepares youth to take on leadership in multiple community settings

High School: Career Leadership SMARTS

- ▶ Focus on career success by building workforce skills
- ▶ Curriculum and training embeds leadership development into school culture, teacher education, and student instruction



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