



Rochester Institute of Technology

RIT Leadership Institute & Community Service Center
34 Lomb Memorial Drive
Rochester, NY 14623
(585) 475-6056
(585)475-7019 Fax

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to submit a letter of support confirming that the Social Change Service Leadership Certificate merits recognition as an innovative practice, worthy of the STAR innovation credit.

The Social Change Service Leadership Certificate is in its second year. Over the past two years 90 participants have earned a certificate.

The goal of the Social Change Service Leadership Certificate is to help raise awareness of the needs in the Community; to help understand social justice issues; and to challenge students to work within the community appropriately. This is accomplished through specific workshops and corresponding service projects.

The program uses the Social Change Model to help connect the student's personal development to his/her experiences in the program. Two key outcomes of the program are (1) to help students recognize how others are utilizing the concepts of the social change model as they work toward making a difference in the community and (2) to begin to consider how the he/she might utilize social change concepts to address an issue that's meaningful to his or her self. Thus the student may recognize that they can become an agent of social change.

Students attend specific workshops featuring expert speakers and panelists from the Rochester community. Workshop speakers have come from organizations such as Monroe County Children and Youth Services, Rochester Police Department, Center for Youth, local public and charter schools, community leaders, hospital administrators, legal representatives, and others. Once the students attend these workshops, they are then taken into the community where they can engage in meaningful community service activities and connect with the agencies or observe the situations first hand. This two pronged approach through meaningful workshops and connected community service have been vital in helping students deepen their community service experiences. At the close, the students complete brief reflections about their experiences and they are asked to identify ways that they observed characteristics of the Social Change Model in action.

We are proud of the students in the Social Change Leadership Certificate program. They've shown a great depth of thought and action during and after their engagement in the program. This is an innovative co-curricular program that's helping RIT's students become engaged members of their community.

Sincerely,

Phyllis P Walker

Phyllis P Walker
Assistant Director
For the Leadership and Community Service Center