

Cross Future Leaders Breakfast, 2000

Friday, March 31 -- Breakfast 7:30-

Anyone who is worried about the future of higher education should meet and talk with this group of future leaders. We received more than 50 nominations and applications and faced the very difficult task of winnowing that pool down to the number of students that we could fund for travel, registration, and lodging. We think we have a wonderful representation of the future leaders of American higher education. And it is very heartening.

I am going to ask each of them to introduce themselves and say just a bit about who they are, where they are a student, any special interests, and not more than we want to know about their dissertation topic.

But before they do that, I'd like to give you a group portrait of this group of future leaders;

They were chosen for their potential for leadership in teaching and learning, ;their strong sense of civic responsibility, and their commitment to contribute to the development of others as leaders, scholars, and citizens. They come from a wide diversity of institutions and disciplines.

Institutions represented include -- interesting to me -- a completely different set of Universities from last years Future Leaders. Universities represented this year are Ohio State, Vanderbilt, Harvard, and the Universities of New Mexico, Michigan, Iowa, and the University of California, Irvine.

Disciplines: Higher Education, sociology, criminology, English Literature, Public Administration, and communications studies.

These future leaders are also current campus leaders. All have been active on their campuses in a variety of leadership positions. Many, recognized as outstanding teachers themselves, are serving

as mentors and role models for ~~TAs~~, and working with campus activities such as AmeriCorps, Alumni clubs, graduate student councils, and diversity and civil rights organizations.

All, I think, have done volunteer work in their local communities, assuming major leadership responsibilities for work with community agencies such as homeless shelters, family crisis centers, Urban League, Big Sisters, and others too numerous and varied to mention.

Because they will be too modest to tell you about the personal characteristics that led their nomination as future leaders, I will list some of the phrases used to describe them by the university faculty members who nominated them. Their letters of nomination constituted an amazing Thesaurus of complimentary terms and phrases, starting with the Cs --compassionate, caring, and committed, moving to the Ds, with dedicated, dynamic, and diplomatic, into the Es with enthusiastic, energetic, engaged and engaging, and on through the alphabet with a vocabulary that graduate faculty don't toss around lightly. ~~Maybe the faculty just needed these stellar examples to bring out such sincere praise.~~

If there were descriptions that occurred in almost every letter of nomination they had to do with commitment, a sense of humor, maturity, and self-discipline.

I am going to ask each of our Future Leaders to come forward to receive their certificate and to tell us just a bit about themselves.

Cassandra Caldwell -- Ohio State University

Kory Ching -- University of California, Irvine

Cynthia Ganote -- Vanderbilt University

Leo Griego -- University of New Mexico

Cecillia Lucero -- University of Michigan

Frances Shavers -- Harvard University

Alaina Winters -- University of Iowa