Our Mission

The objective of the Staley School’s coursework and programs is to advance its mission, “developing knowledgeable, ethical, caring, inclusive leaders for a diverse and changing world.” Based on the mission, all courses and programs are designed to meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Develop **knowledge** of self, group dynamics and communications processes, and current and historical perspectives on leadership.
- Foster **ethical** decision-making through critical analysis, problem solving, and discussions about integrity and character.
- Emphasize **caring** as a key component of effective leadership, which requires boldness, fortitude, service, positive change orientation, inspiration and celebration.
- Cultivate an **inclusive** world by encouraging open dialogue and sharing of stories and experiences in recognition of all that unites us.
- Appreciate **diversity** by educating about a variety of cultures, studying leadership issues of special populations, and facilitating inter-cultural communication.
- Recognize **change** as a vital part of the leadership process and prepare future leaders to deal with change in a constructive way.

Who We Are

We live in challenging times that require authentic engagement and leadership, and the Mary Lynn and Warren Staley School of Leadership Studies seeks to prepare leaders to address the many challenges we face. The program starts with the idea that leadership is not about having a title or position, but rather, it’s a capacity that can be developed and cultivated within each of us. By advancing our knowledge of self and growing our capacity to work with others, we can each learn to exercise leadership for the good of an organization, community, and the world. Whether they are tasked with moving forward an important initiative or dialogue within a workplace or civic organization or mobilizing others to address a global or community need, the students in our program today are the change makers of tomorrow.

The Mary Lynn and Warren Staley School of Leadership Studies is a values-centered learning community that offers interdisciplinary academic programming in addition to an array of service-learning and civic engagement opportunities — all with the purpose of educating students for and about leadership.

Academic Programs

Leadership studies began in 1997 with 13 students and has grown to reach more than 1,200 students currently enrolled in the academic minor. These students come from every college and across a diverse set of majors offered on the Manhattan campus. The leadership studies minor offers a standard or nonprofit focus, allowing students to tailor their leadership experience based on their career goals and aspirations.

In addition to our undergraduate minor, the Staley School is partnering in new and exciting ways with a number of different colleges and departments on campus to provide leadership curriculum geared towards future leaders in both engineering and global food systems. We are also reaching graduate students on campus and emerging community leaders across the country through programs in community-engaged leadership.

Civic Engagement and Service - Learning

Beyond the classroom, the Staley School provides students with opportunities for leadership and service on campus, in the Manhattan community, across the United States, and around the world through an array of programs actively working to foster change locally and globally. By engaging in service-learning activities, students can apply and expand their learning beyond their coursework through programs like International Service Teams, Alternative Breaks, and HandsOn Kansas State.
Who We Want to Be

Recently, the university launched its Innovation and Inspiration Campaign to raise $1 billion for Kansas State University. Through Innovation and Inspiration, the Staley School has put forth an ambitious set of goals for the many ways we’d like to grow our legacy in the years to come. We’re excited to stay connected and talk with you more about our vision for engaging students with community, enhancing our one-of-a-kind faculty, and fostering innovative learning.

If we’re going to be who we need to be, achieve what we’ve been planning and dreaming for ourselves, for our students, and for our world, what we need is you. To engage, to connect, and to help us build our legacy.

Engaging Students with Community

In addition to leadership development in the classroom, the Staley School offers civic engagement and service-learning programs that challenge students to practice leadership beyond the borders of campus. Our students engage in communities — local and global — to address real challenges and grow their own capacity to bring about change. Continuing this valued contribution to the future of our world, and expanding opportunities to serve more students and more communities, requires sustainable funding. Whether providing materials and transportation for our teams of student volunteers or the operational funding required to serve as the university’s resource for community engagement and service-learning, your support makes a difference in the K-State community and to the leaders of tomorrow.

Enhancing Faculty

The Staley School of Leadership Studies has built a strong national and international reputation for developing leadership among undergraduate students and advancing the study of civic leadership. Maintaining our leading edge in these areas, as well as successfully extending into graduate education, is only possible through continued support and development of our extraordinary faculty.

Beyond current Staley School faculty, we seek opportunities to expand and diversify the network and expertise offered to our students by engaging educators and practitioners from outside the university to serve as visiting scholars and leaders in our classrooms and our academic community.

Fostering Innovative Learning

We are fortunate to call the Leadership Studies Building home. Opened in 2010, it serves as a model for innovative learning and environmental sustainability. As our world continues to advance technologically, our learning environments must adapt and improve to meet the demands of global connection and collaboration between campus, industry and our partners locally and around the world. To develop and prepare leaders for tomorrow’s challenges, we must leverage the most cutting-edge resources of today and work to expand the capacity of the Staley School to become a national center for civic leadership.

Staying Connected | Building our Legacy

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103 Leadership Studies Building
Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506
785-532-60805 • leadership@k-state.edu

www.facebook.com/kstateSSLS www. twitter.com/kstateSSLS www.k-state.edu/leadership