

## **Women's Leadership Institute Programming**

### **Three Signature Programs:**

In addition to the many partnership programs and collaborative activities in which we engage, there are three signature program concepts of the Institute.

### **NEW Leadership™ Wisconsin:**

In summer 2006, we launched NEW Leadership™ Wisconsin, a model program affiliated with the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. We have now had three successful cohorts of this program. NEW Leadership™ Wisconsin is designed to educate, empower, and encourage young women to take on public leadership roles and help develop the next generation of leaders. A new generation of women leaders with vision and courage will be prepared to participate effectively in the decision-making arenas of public policy, public service, politics, and business, through this in-depth, six-day, summer residential program. NEW Leadership's goal is to interest young women in public policy, public service, and running for office through the development of leadership skills. College students learn basic skills such as public speaking, networking, negotiation, constructive conflict resolution, advocacy and activism, and developing a media message. Significant levels of follow-up, tracking, evaluative work, and the provision of ongoing resources, support and networking are key elements of our New Leadership™ programs. Service-learning community involvement is a fundamental component of Mount Mary's teaching model and is included in the program.

### **Fall Leadership Forum:**

The Geneva B. Johnson Fall Leadership Lecture Series brings people together to examine and discuss contemporary women's issues and solutions. The lecture series seeks to advance public understanding and collaboration on topics such as improving the status of women; global leadership and women's role in facilitating world peace; developing entrepreneurial and corporate business skills for the workplace; and leadership skills for the nonprofit sector. The forum is intended for women at the 30,000-foot level, who are seeking advanced leadership development skills. The series was named to honor the Leadership Institute's first executive director, Geneva Bolton Johnson. She now continues to serve the college in the role of chair of the Institute's Advisory Board. Through this program, Mount Mary has hosted a roster of internationally, nationally, and regionally known speakers including Monica McWilliams, representative of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition; Thomas Moran, President and CEO of Mutual of America; Presidential Medal of Freedom honoree Frances Hesselbein; Dorothy K. Light, Alden Enterprises founder; acclaimed presenter, writer, and organizational consultant, Margaret Wheatley; and Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton.

### **Spring Leadership Development:**

This proposed annual Spring event, the Milwaukee-Area Grassroots Women Leadership Development conference, will target underserved and under-represented women involved in grassroots initiatives such as school boards, block associations and other civic groups in the greater Milwaukee area. It will supplement, and will not duplicate, the activities of such groups, by working with them to identify gaps, assess needs, and provide valuable training. It is intended for women at the 3,000-foot level, who are seeking leadership development skills to manage local issues and advance the agenda of their communities. With these series of workshops, the WLI will research, design, build, and then evaluate a Milwaukee-specific leadership model that teaches and promotes specific leadership skills to community grassroots women who have limited financial resources or time constraints that prohibit them from pursuing a leadership college degree or a leadership certificate. The primary objective is to strengthen these women's ability to effect social change within the groups and communities they serve, by providing them with basic skills along the lines of NEW Leadership™ Wisconsin, and connect them with service opportunities that address their passion and their community priorities. It is anticipated that this basic training will be facilitated by periodic (bimonthly or quarterly) workshops and special presentations.