

Overview

The Oregon Leadership Development Institute (OLDI) is a non-profit organization focused on the development of leadership capacity in post-college “students.” Its Fellows Program is designed to engage young people in a focused, nine-month exploration of each Fellow’s unique purpose and vocational pathway, as informed by the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.

Structured as a “gap year” between graduation from college and entry into a vocation or pursuit of graduate studies, the Fellows Program is designed to empower young people to live out their faith while becoming leaders in the private or non-profit sector marketplace. The program will emphasize that all work is sacred, while recognizing that leadership in the secular marketplace too often is disconnected from spiritual values. It is designed to teach Fellows to integrate their faith and secular leadership responsibilities in a manner that is true to their faith and winsome to their coworkers and their organization’s stakeholders.

OLDI believes that active, daily interaction between its Fellows and those who supervise their work and with whom they live is essential. The Fellows Program will employ an apprenticeship style of learning that requires a serious commitment on the part of each Fellow and the mentors and the community of caring adults who are dedicated to engaging them in an ongoing dialog. Fellows will be exposed to leadership modeled for them on a daily basis by their mentor and community of caring adults.

Key Elements

The Fellows Program will include the following elements, designed to help each Fellow develop a more complete understanding of the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth and their relevance to vocation:

- **A Job in the Private or Non-Profit Sector Market Place.** OLDI has identified meaningful internship opportunities across a variety of market sectors. Each Fellow will be employed in a responsible private, public, or non-profit sector job that requires the Fellow produce deliverables on a regular basis that are relevant to the success of his or her employer. In addition to performing meaningful assignments, the Fellow will have the opportunity to interact on a personal basis with his mentor, who is committed to engaging in the life of the Fellow on a daily basis. Fellows will work at this job 4 days each week on average, allowing time for the other key program elements outlined below.
- **Community Life.** All Fellows will live together in a house in Portland, as well as participate in a community of responsible, caring adults. The adults will include them in the daily life of their families and community, openly and honestly sharing their lives. Through regular interaction with caring adults, the Fellows will experience apprenticeship-style learning related to core principles/life-style choices, including service to others, mutual submission, and the commitment to being reconciled.

- Community Service. In addition to having a job, each Fellow will be expected to participate in a community service project. Involvement in such projects will expose the Fellow to the poor and the challenges of leadership in that context.
- Enrichment Activities. In addition to their job and community life, each Fellow will be afforded numerous opportunities for personal enrichment, including (i) interaction with young adults and caring adults from Fellows-like programs in other cities, and (ii) participation in other leadership development activities such as events sponsored by the Murdock Trust; the Washington Family Ranch Weekend; and the National Prayer Breakfast.
- Teachings of Jesus Curricula. OLDI has developed curricula focused on the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth that includes Scripture study and selected exposure to literature, cinema and the arts that communicate core truths about the human condition. Each Fellow will be required to master the curriculum and, in turn, be able to teach it effectively to others.

Financial

Each Fellow will receive a grant comprised of employer-provided stipend and resources provided by OLDI sufficient to cover all expenses of program participation, including modest living expenses, health insurance and other program costs.

Application/Selection Process

Applications for the Fellows Program are available at www.thefellowsprogram.org or from the OLDI office. Applications are due by February 1, 2012, but preference will be given to applications received by January 1, 2012. Decisions on applications for 2011-2012 program will be made by March 5, 2012.

The selection process will include both the written application and personal interviews with OLDI Board Members. OLDI is looking for young persons who desire to take a “gap year” following graduation from college and before entering the workplace or pursuing graduate studies. Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate a strong desire to learn how to better integrate their faith and future vocation and whose vocational interests appear to be a good fit with available internship opportunities. The selection process also will focus on identifying young people who demonstrate a desire to study the teachings of Jesus and live in a community with other Fellows and caring adults.