

"The Allentown Diocese in the Year of Our Lord"

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Eleven DeSales University students will begin a year-long national leadership development August 21, when they attend a three-day retreat as part of the 2008-2009 Salesian Leadership Institute's "Catholic Hero's Journey."

In its third year at DeSales, the program is sponsored by the Salesian Center for Faith and Culture and is made possible through a grant from the Ryan Family Foundation. The program was created by the Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI), in Malvern, Pa., and has been customized for the University to incorporate various elements of Salesian spirituality.

During the retreat, students will be guided to discover their own special gifts and talents and learn how to apply those talents in ways that maximizes the impact of their efforts. Following the August retreat, students will then participate in 10 monthly meetings with fellow participants on the DeSales campus, part of the program's support network with which they can share their experiences and challenges and motivate each other to achieve their goals.

The selected DeSales students are: Robert Bacon of Hatfield, Pa., an accounting major; Kelly Magrann of Sinking Spring, Pa., a sport and exercise science major; Lauren Escol of Baltimore, Md., a nursing major; Katie McNally of York, Pa., a physician assistant major; Jonathan Fura of Mohnton, Pa., a biochemistry major; Nicholas Schenk of Ottawa Lake, Mich., a biology major; Kaylee Garguilo of Bethlehem, Pa., an elementary education major; Nicholas Staats of Montrose, Pa., a finance major; Emily Hoffman of Laceyville, Pa., a sport and exercise major; Meghan Weber of Doylestown, Pa., a nursing major and Gina Locke of Gardner, Mass., a nursing major. All students will enter their junior year at DeSales this fall.

Two DeSales employees were also invited to participate in the program. Ryan Allen of Bethlehem, Pa., development officer in the office of institutional advancement, and Phil Yetter of Saylorsburg, Pa., director of alumni relations at DeSales.

For more information on the Catholic Leadership Institute call 610-251-3750 or visit the Institute's Web site, <http://www.catholicleaders.org/>.