IWIL Institute for Women in Leadership

step in. stand out.

BREVARD COLLEGE

What is the IWIL Program?

Residential Learning

IWIL women live together in two residential communities, where they develop consensus-based decision-making skills and learn how to create an effective working team.

Leadership Training

All IWIL women participate in weekly evening circles that include roundtable discussions; presentations; films; and meetings with community leaders. IWIL juniors and seniors plan these programs, which help develop students into valued professionals.

Lauren Wise describes these evening circles as *"a great bonding experience. It's a time to get to know everyone better and form a community. After a circle, we can not only say I Will, but We Will."*

Service

IWIL women plan and implement a weekend service project in the fall and a full week's service project during Spring Break. Sarah Alexander traveled to Charlotte, N.C. to participate in numerous service projects. *"I owe the connectedness of our IWIL group to our Spring Break service trip to Charlotte. We worked hand-in-hand to make an impact on the Charlotte area, and through our collaboration, each group member was given the opportunity to show the group and herself her importance in our IWIL community."*

College Curriculum

The IWIL women take four one-credit courses and three upper-level courses to earn a **Certificate in Women's Leadership**. They also have the option of completing additional coursework to gain a **Minor in Gender and Leadership Studies**.

Margaret Brown, a Brevard College history professor, led an interview project with IWIL women that became a dramatic production. *"IWIL women typically challenge themselves, but this group decided to make their mark by interviewing survivors of domestic abuse. Many of the women interviewed were moved by the experience, especially when IWIL turned the project into a play to help educate the entire community."*

Mentoring

IWIL offers several opportunities for mentoring. Returning IWIL women serve as "big sisters" to the program's first year freshman. They also have an opportunity to be mentored by community members. IWIL freshmen serve as mentors to middle school girls. Additional women selected from the community help the members develop the skills they'll need to become competitive in future job markets.

"My mentee and I have a very easy time being together. I would say we are like two peas in a pod. She has a clear view of where she is going and what she wants and we are having a delicious time making plans for getting her out into the community. It is an honor to have this experience with her," community mentor Susan Petersen explains.

Scholarship

IWIL membership includes a $5,000 Leadership Scholarship, renewable annually.

How are IWIL participants selected?

All interested women are invited to apply. Prospective members must be admitted to Brevard College prior to scheduling their interviews for acceptance to the IWIL program. All applicant files **must be complete** before an interview will be scheduled.

- Complete the IWIL application (including a letter of interest)
- Submit two letters of recommendation (details on the application)
- Interview with IWIL Selection Committee (register for interview on the application)
- Interview dates are March 17 (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or March 24 (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

What you'll get...

IWIL is a scholarship, a residential learning community, a service program and a new curriculum that connects young women to the Western North Carolina community in a unique way. Our mission is to foster confident, inquisitive young women with global perspectives and a passion for local service.

We want to give a young woman solid ground to stand on when she says, "I WILL."

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