

**Rutgers University Graduate School of Education  
Ed.M. in College Student Affairs  
Field Experience Placement Site Application**

This application must be submitted electronically. Completed applications should be emailed to Dr. Paul A. Herman (paherman@rci.rutgers.edu) with a copy sent to your supervisor.

  Is   By inserting my initials here and copying my supervisor on the email that I send to submit this application, I certify that my supervisor has approved this application.

**Name of Field Experience Site:** Center for the Development of Leadership Skills, Rider University

**Name of Site Supervisor:** Laura Seplaki

**Job Title:** Associate Director

**Phone:** 609-895-5791 **Email:** lseplaki@rider.edu

**Address:** 2083 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

**Please list degree, field of study and conferring institution for each degree you hold:**

1. Bachelors of Science, Building Science (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)
2. Masters of Arts, Counseling (The College of New Jersey)
3. BCC Certified Life Coach (training from Rider University)
- 4.

**Do you currently supervise full time professional staff?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No   X  

**If not, have you supervised full time professional staff in the past?** Yes   X   No \_\_\_\_\_

**If your answer is Yes, please specify when and where:** 2005 – 2008 at Westminster Choir College of Rider University. As Associate Director for the CDLS (2008 – present), I supervise a Graduate Assistant.

**Number of students sought:** 1

- 1. Please indicate the time frames when you might expect a student to be present at your site. Would you want the student to begin before the semester begins or to extend beyond the end of the semester? Would you expect evening hours? Do you have a preference for days of the week when the student would be present?**

My position is a full-time 12-month position, so I am very open as to when a student would begin and end their work with the CDLS. There are always opportunities to work on a project at any point. I would not expect evening or weekend hours, however, depending upon the project the student works on, there would be the potential for evening or weekend obligations. While I do not have a preference for the days of the week (M-F) when a student would be present, I would like to coordinate it with the GA that I work with so that the office space/computer could be shared. My GA works 20 hours per week, so it would be ideal to have the Rutgers student work during hours/days that the GA is not. If there is some overlap, I will work with administration to find a space that can be utilized (e.g., an empty faculty office).

- 2. Please list a statement of the Goals for your Site.**

Rider University established the Center for the Development of Leadership Skills in 2004 to address the need to educate our campus community about leadership - how it is defined, how it is practiced, and how to be an effective leader. The CDLS believes that leadership is a process, not a position, and that through education, self-awareness, and the honing of one's talents and skills, everyone has the ability to lead. The Leadership Development Program (the certificate program for a select group of students) works toward this goal by providing students an academic, experiential, and co-curricular program by which to learn about and practice leadership.

To learn more about the CDLS and LDP, please visit our website at [www.rider.edu/cdls](http://www.rider.edu/cdls) and [www.rider.edu/ldp](http://www.rider.edu/ldp).

The goal that we would have for any graduate level student working with us is for them to learn about and improve their leadership through the work that they will do with our Center. It would be ideal for the student to:

- identify a challenging project of interest that will allow him/her to gain knowledge
- practice their leadership skills through the process of working on the project
- receive/solicit feedback and reflect upon their work and learning
- create a product that will positively change/influence the lives of the students it would target

**3. Please present a list of selected readings that you might assign to a student as part of their learning contract.**

The Leadership Development Program's main credited course (LDP 200: Foundations in Leadership) currently utilizes:

- Komives, S.R., Lucas, N., McMahon, T.R. (2013). Exploring Leadership: For College Students Who Want to Make a Difference, 3rd Ed. Jossey-Bass, Inc.
- Northouse, P.G. (2015). Introduction to Leadership: Concepts and Practice, 3rd Ed. Sage Publications, Inc.

I would also want the student to be familiar with the Social Change Model of Leadership Development. These texts/models speak to the philosophy of the LDP, in that leadership is derived and learned by serving others.

**4. The student will be expected to complete a project during their placement at your site. Projects should 1) enhance the student's knowledge or skills of the practice of student affairs in the Site; 2) the project should be consistent with and demonstrate completion of Field Experience goals, and 3) the project should be useful to the Site Supervisor and his/her agency. The project will be used by the student as an artifact in their Culminating Project that is a requirement of the program. Professional staff in the agency, other than the site supervisor, may supervise the student in the project. Please list two or three possible projects so that the student can have some idea of what they might be working on while completing their Field Experience in your agency. It is understood that actual projects may differ from those noted here. In listing the projects, please specify who would be supervising the project.**

There are a number of projects that a student may choose to work on for their experience with the CDLS/LDP. These projects include:

- Developing and implementing the CDLS's annual [Leadership Symposium](#) or another/new leadership development/training opportunity
- Evaluating/assessing the curriculum of the LDP's Leadership for Change Seminar Series
- Researching and developing the curriculum for a Leadership Minor at Rider University
- Developing a comprehensive assessment program for the CDLS and LDP

I would be the primary supervisor of the student, but each of these projects would allow the student to connect with various campus administrators and faculty, not only to accomplish the goals of the project, but from which to learn.