



News Release

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Century Students Grow as Leaders

Students who enroll in Century College have growing opportunities to blossom as leaders.

Students can serve as Student Ambassadors, participate in the [Leadership Institute](#), join the Student Senate, become a member of the Planning Activities Committee or join [many of the other clubs on campus](#).

“We know that employers are looking for people who can communicate, work well on teams, solve problems and manage conflict,” said Century’s [Katie Svoboda](#), who co-facilitates the Century College Leadership Institute with staff member [Jennifer Rassett](#). “Growing your leadership skills is an important step in becoming a successful college student and a successful professional.”

Century student Kevin Tuft of Stillwater, a Century Student Ambassador, said the program has helped him become a more confident communicator. “I came to Century because I didn’t want to have a job, I

wanted a career,” said Tuft, 26, a 2002 Stillwater High School graduate. “I had been doing factory work and I realized that over the long run, this is not what I wanted to do with my life.”

Tuft said as a Student Ambassador, he helps with new student orientation session, Welcome Week activities and the First-Year Experience program. He also serves on the West Campus Welcome Desk in the Main Commons. All of these activities have not only deepened his knowledge of the college, but they have grown his confidence in working with people who are trying to become successful Century students.

“I really like working one-on-one with students,” said Tuft. “It’s rewarding to help a student figure out the best way to do college. It’s great to help them break out of their shell.”

Svoboda said new students do not always realize what a full experience college is, and how much it can change them as a person. Building leadership skills, she said, helps a student gain self-knowledge as well as knowledge about how groups operate successfully.

“In the Leadership Institute, students learn how to trust themselves and trust one another,” said Svoboda.

The 10-week Leadership Institute meets once a week for 75-minute sessions. During this time, students take the StrengthsQuest inventory and spend some time at Camp St. Croix doing team-building activities.

A student in the law enforcement program at Century, Tuft said being an Ambassador has helped him gain skills that he can use in his position as a Stillwater Police reserve officer. “Being an Ambassador has really helped me personally,” said Tuft. “It’s also been a lot of fun.”

Century accepts 15 Student Ambassadors per semester. To qualify, students must meet grade-point requirements, have a positive attitude and exhibit a willingness to help other students.



Photo: Katie Svoboda and Kevin Tuft