

# Leadership, Community, and Experience: Engaging High Achieving First-Year Students

Brian C. Yates, Ed.D. and Frank P. DiGregorio  
Liberty University

## Eagle Scholars Program

### **Mission**

- Provides high achieving first-year students the training necessary for personal and professional development to become leaders throughout college and beyond.

### **Benefits**

- Priority early registration for classes
- Personal Development (prepare for Univ. leadership opportunities)
- Professional Development (increase likelihood of internships and employment)

### **Agenda**

- Trips to D.C.
- Habitat for Humanity
- Master's Inn retreat (paint ball, ropes course, etc.)
- Large and small group class settings
- Personal mentoring
- End of semester celebrations

## Eligibility

### **Application**

- Minimum H.S. GPA = 3.3
- Composite SAT at least 1100
- Composite ACT at least 24
- Essay

### **After Acceptance**

- Maintain a 3.0 GPA or higher
- Complete required courses:
  - ESLP 101 – Connecting with Others (1 credit)
  - ESLP 102 – Self Leadership (1 credit)
- Participate in University-sponsored trips/events

*\*Honors Program Students are Not Eligible\**



## Results



	Participants	Control
<b>Enrolled</b>	79	308
<b>Retained</b>	76	279
<b>Percent</b>	96.2%	90.5%
<b>GPA</b>	3.53	3.42



*Difference between program operational cost and tuition revenue generated = \$ -9,000.00*

## Conclusions

1. The retention rate compared to overall **cost of the program is positive.**
2. The program has proven to be a great environment for **promoting student connections.**
3. **Experience**, more than additional scholarship dollars, are important and **create value for students.**
4. The program has led to **enhanced engagement with the University** as a whole.

**LIBERTY**  
UNIVERSITY.