

breakfast 15 minutes before the first students do and conduct all-in checks after they've gone to bed. That translates to long days of coaching, mentoring, leading, chaperoning and teaching. Accountability for the welfare and whereabouts of the students is critical. Having excellent administrative and small-group leadership skills is non-negotiable. The staff must be subject-matter proficient in the academic focus of each conference. Most importantly, however, they must be experienced and schooled in leadership and be willing to pass down their knowledge in both formal and informal settings.

Sounds like cadre, doesn't it?

With 13 Citadel representatives on the LeadAmerica staff, many of the more than 5,500 young leaders who attended LeadAmerica conferences this summer benefited from The Citadel way.

Students with a passion for medicine learned the traits and skills necessary for a career in the medical profession at the Medicine and Healthcare conference where John Zink, '03, served as a head team leader. Those interested in national security attended Defense and Intelligence where they were led by Officer Candidate Matt Dryden, an active-duty Citadel student. Joseph Rohe, '03, served as head team leader for that conference with Assistant Program Director Doug Miller, '03, overseeing site operations and logistics for many of



students develop a business plan at the Business and Entrepreneurship conferences in Chicago, Boston, and Washington, D.C. Cadets Travis Teate and Jhonna Casey with graduates Tin Ngyuen, '04, and Andrew Benko, '04, woke students at zero-dark-hundred to search for clues at the conference on Crime Scene Investigation/Forensic Science. Cadet Ryan Thompson had his hands full with logistics, meetings with senators and representatives and administrative duties.

I served as assistant program director for the Junior War College. Program Director Col. Floyd Duncan, professor of economics at the Virginia Military Institute and a retired infantry officer, drew upon his experience at the Army War College to lead a 10-day conference for high school students. I presented two lectures to the students: one about ethics as the basis for leadership and another about how daily choices affect honor.

Even our field trips were academically focused. When I took groups to visit the Lincoln Memorial, I'd first take them to the ground floor museum. They read Lincoln's exact words about the causes of the Civil War. Often discussing that issue among themselves, the students then climbed the marble stairs to see the sculpture of the man whose words they were debating. Far from a mere sight-seeing tour, these conferences inspired students to think about and learn from the places they visited.

Cadet life prepared all of us well for the summer's challenges, and LeadAmerica's call for Citadel-educated team leaders increases every year. Miller first came to



Cadet life prepared all of us well for the summer's challenges, and LeadAmerica's call for Citadel-educated team leaders increases every year.



the Washington, D.C.-based conferences. If legislative careers interested students, Cadets Russ Kaufmann and Trevor Miller were their team leaders at the Congressional Forum, a conference at which cadets moderated debates while students simulated writing and enacting a bill into a law in their own mock congress. Suzanne Campbell, '04, and John Ingham, '04, helped

LeadAmerica in 2002 and was joined by Rohe and me shortly after our graduation.

"The Citadel's values and leadership perspective," said Chris M. Salamone, executive director of LeadAmerica, "are very consistent with LeadAmerica's, and we look forward to the continued involvement of Citadel cadets and alumni with our conferences."

At the end of summer many hundreds of students had been influenced by The Citadel staff at LeadAmerica. The lessons our cadre taught us we still carry, and we passed down the motivation, drive for excellence, and passion for uncompromising ethics and integrity that have so long been the hallmarks of a Citadel education.