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## ExplORations gets students involved

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Opportunities abound for students to become involved at Oakland University. To help inform incoming freshmen of these opportunities and to help them develop leadership and communications skills as well as make new friends, the **Center for Student Activities** is presenting ExplORations 2002.

The focus of these introductory leadership sessions, which are Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 5-6 p.m. in the Oakland Center Heritage Room and Tuesday, Oct. 29, from noon-1p.m. in the Oakland Center Gold Room C, are to make freshmen aware of the advantages of becoming involved on campus, said Jean Ann Miller, director of the Center for Student Activities.

"Our ultimate goal is to see our incoming freshmen become involved literally from the very moment they start their academic careers," Miller said. "There is a strong correlation between ExplORations participants becoming officers in student organizations, University Student Congress or other student leadership positions after getting involved.

"For the more shy students, these sessions really bring them out. The transformation that takes place in them is really remarkable. And they'll get to know other students and develop lasting friendships and study buddies."

All new students entering Oakland University during the fall 2002 semester have an opportunity to participate in the leadership sessions, particularly students in the COM 101 classes. Discussions and activities are very interactive and motivating.

"This isn't about sitting down and listening to a lecture. It's about opening up, finding out about campus resources, having dialogues with each other and learning about what you can experience at Oakland," Miller said. "And the students do become involved. I can recall former University Congress President Adam Kochenderfer announcing at the end of ExplORations he enrolled in that he intended on becoming student body president. And he did just that.

"Students also have the opportunity to interact with other students from very diverse backgrounds. Some have never encountered students of color or those from other geographic regions, different religious or ethnic backgrounds. These leadership sessions facilitate students embracing each other and building strong friendships."

For more information, contact the **Center for Student Activities** at (248) 370-2400 or [csa@oakland.edu](mailto:csa@oakland.edu).

### SUMMARY

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