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Louise and Wally Bishop Endowment for Ethical Leadership (Academic Year 2011-12)

University of South Florida St. Petersburg, Wally and Louise Bishop Center for Ethical Leadership & Civic Engagement.

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USF St. Petersburg offers distinctive graduate and undergraduate programs in the arts and sciences, business, and education within a close-knit, student-centered environment. As the first regional institution within the USF System to earn independent accreditation, USF St. Petersburg distinguishes itself by its urban waterfront location in downtown St. Petersburg and a focus on undergraduate research, civic engagement and small classes. USF St. Petersburg retains a separate identity and mission while contributing to and benefiting from the associations, cooperation, and shared resources of a premier national research university.

The Bishop Center offered 13 courses in the Leadership Studies minor which enrolled a total of 122 students. The Center added one course to the minor, SPC 3602-Advanced Public Speaking. Students seeking to minor in Leadership Studies may now have this course count as one of their electives.

The Civic Engagement component of the Center surveyed 140 of the citizen scholar courses on campus to assess their civic engagement requirements. As a consequence of the survey, it was determined that approximately 56,974 hours were performed by students enrolled in USF St. Petersburg courses. Engagement range from limited volunteering to significant scholarly engagement where both the student and the placement site benefit.
The Center collaborated in planning for and supporting financially two major events on campus. The first was a lecture hosted by USFSP College of Business with a major presentation by Anousheh Ansari. Mrs. Ansari is the co-founder and CEO of Prodea Systems, a market transforming technology simplifying a complex digital life style. Anousheh is also famous for being the first female private space explorer.

Mrs. Ansari is a member of the X Prize Foundation’s Vision Circle, as well as its Board of Trustees. She currently works to enable social entrepreneurs to bring about radical change globally, with organizations such as ASHOKA, which supports social entrepreneurship around the world, including the Middle East and Central Asia. She runs an annual competition called the “What If?” for middle school students to promote free thinking and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education. She has served on the boards of not-for-profit organizations such as Make-a-Wish Foundation of North Texas and the Collin County Texas Children’s Advocacy Center.

Approximately 200 students, faculty and mentors of the community attended Mrs. Ansari’s public lecture. The Center also sponsored bringing to USFSP Mr. Dave Newport, Director of the University of Colorado (Boulder) Environmental Center. Mr. Newport consulted with USFSP administrators, faculty and students regarding the implementation and development of programs related to sustainability. He was especially involved with members of the USFSP student government regarding the latter’s assessment of a “Green Fee” to support student projects related to sustainability. Mr. Newport concluded his time here at USFSP with an “open to the
public event related to preserving the environment and how to indicate and maintaining efforts in sustainability. Approximately 100 citizens and students attended this event.