

## Generation Y learns to lead

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One step ahead of the debate on how to manage Generation Y in the workplace, young adults from across the UK are learning how to lead. Thirty-seven pre-career leaders gathered at University College London last week to learn how to increase their ability to make a difference in their communities, universities and the organisations they will work for.

Run by leadership development organisation Common Purpose, participants on the free Frontrunner programme explored their different leadership styles and visited a diverse range of organisations where they examined the issues they are facing with the people who are managing them. This included Oxfam, the London Borough of Islington and Lehman Brothers. It was a chance for young people who have already demonstrated leadership to explore what is required to lead effectively with those already in management positions and leading change in society.

Common Purpose believes it is crucial to encourage the leadership spark in Generation Y so that it is not lost when they enter full-time work. Julia Middleton, Chief Executive of Common Purpose says: "All too often, work pressures erode the passion and capacity in young people to lead and effect change on the issues they care about, so it is vital that they take time at the beginning of their careers to consider how they can continue to grow as leaders."

Joey Prowis who took part in Frontrunner says of the experience: "The insight and inspiration gained from the programme's various speakers have motivated me to actively lead for positive change in my current and future workplaces. The networks gained through common purpose have also enabled me to campaign for change outside of my working area of commerce."

Professor Malcolm Grant, President and Provost of University College London says of the programme: "Common Purpose's Frontrunner programme is a unique formative experience for pre-career leaders. The programme provides an opportunity to meet a diverse group of leaders, obtain expert knowledge and learn what it takes to create change in today's professional environment. University College London was proud to sponsor the programme."

Frontrunner is run twice annually, the next Frontrunner programme will be taking place from 1-4 September at the University of Leeds where the participants will stay during the course of the programme. Applications are received from across the UK and are selected based on the leadership they have shown so far. The programme aims to help participants become more effective campaigners for change in their communities and workplaces and also provide a diverse and stimulating new network of other leaders across the UK.

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