



LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2026 LEADING THROUGH CHARACTER

Title: Developing Student-Athlete Leaders Through Character Academy

Target Audience: High school student-athletes

Duration: One day, 8AM to 4:30PM

Location: West Chester University

Agenda Overview:

8:15 AM - 8:45 AM:

- Registration and Welcome
- Welcome: Brief introduction by seminar coordinator outlining the day's objectives

- **9:00 AM - 10:30 AM: Panel Discussion - Coach Phil Martelli, respected basketball coach and mentor; Amy Fadool, Emmy Award winning sports anchor and reporter for NBC Sports Philadelphia; Moderator - Rhea Hughes, 94 WIP Radio Host; (Carl Nassib, former NFL player and founder, Rayze, connecting nonprofits with young philanthropists - invited panelist)**
- Topic: "The Role of Character and Virtues in Leadership"
- Content:
 - The intersection of athletics and student leadership, highlighting empathy and humility
 - How ethical decision-making shapes effective leaders
 - Real-life virtuous exemplars in sports and related fields

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM: Break

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM: Breakout Session 1

Session Topic #1: Empathy

- Facilitators: [Experienced athletic, industry, civic, and/or community leader]
- Discussion on empathy, open-mindedness, compassion, and collaboration
- Interactive exercises to highlight the importance of empathy in athletics

Session Topic #2: Humility

- Facilitators: [Experienced athletic, industry, civic, and/or community leader]
- Explores the unique challenges of leadership within athletics and related fields and the valuable role of humility as a student-athlete
- Engages students in role-playing scenarios to practice ethical decision-making

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM: Lunch and Networking

- Students will have the opportunity to network with peers and speakers.
- Time for encouraged discussions about personal experiences in leadership roles.

1:30 PM - 2:45 PM: Panel Discussion - Kris Jenkins, Villanova basketball champion; Jameer Nelson, EVP of Basketball Operations, and Prosper Kanagwa, VP of Player Personnel, 76ers; and Dr. Dan Furlong, United States Military Academy West Point; Moderator - Pat Gallen, CBS News Philadelphia

- Topic: "Leadership Challenges and Ethical Dilemmas"
- Content:
 - The intersection of athletics and student leadership, highlighting resilience and integrity
 - How ethical decision-making shapes effective leaders
 - Real-life virtuous exemplars in sports and related fields

2:45PM - 4 PM: Breakout Session 2**Session Topic #1: Resilience**

- Facilitators: [Motivational athletic, industry, civic, and/or community leader]
- Focus upon resilience, along with grit and determination, as critical for leaders
- Activities to demonstrate overcoming challenges and obstacles in leadership

Session Topic #2: Integrity

- Facilitators: [Motivational athletic, industry, civic, and/or community leader]
- Discussion on building a culture that promotes ethical behavior, focusing upon integrity and team culture
- Group brainstorming on practical strategies to navigate ethical dilemmas

4 PM - 4:30 PM: Closing Remarks, Reflections, and Coin Distribution

- Activity: Students share their biggest takeaways from the seminar.

- Farewell: Thank you to speakers and participants; distribute resource materials for continued learning on character, virtues, and ethical decision making and leadership