



Director of the Western Pennsylvania Learning Academy, Lisa Gibson, meets with two students who are enrolled in Empower2018.

## NEW SUMMER PROGRAMS TO BOOST LEADERSHIP SKILLS

What happens when you combine two widely popular and successful summer learning programs? You create a new learning opportunity that will Empower high school students with skills that last a lifetime! The Western Pennsylvania Learning Academy at Fox Chapel Area High School has partnered with Dale Carnegie & Associates to create Empower2018, a new and innovative leadership program.

“I am so excited about this program because we were able to take the best of the former STEMM Academy and LAUNCH programs and use those as a foundation to build something totally new that will help our students to not only be successful in their chosen career path, but in life,” said Lisa Gibson, the director of the Western Pennsylvania Learning Academy and Fox Chapel Area High School’s gifted education coordinator. “One of the main purposes of the summer program is to help students learn to communicate well and network, and to help students learn to showcase their skills and talents.”

Through a series of interactive, real-life experiences and professional exposure, Empower2018 will offer students the opportunity to learn and practice social, professional, and interpersonal skills. Attendees will also realize their leadership potential, step outside of their comfort zone, and step into their growth zone. “The skills they will acquire are universally coveted by today’s employers, regardless of technical skill sets,” Mrs. Gibson said.

She continued, “Our program is totally unique, especially in that it can be accessed by students from any school district.”

Open to incoming 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders, the 13-day comprehensive leadership program will include eight complete Dale Carnegie Training™ sessions. Dale Carnegie’s “Skills for Success for Young Adults” focuses on five key areas that are





critical for future success. The comprehensive Empower2018 program will earn students two college credits.

A nine-day emerging leadership program is also available for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> graders that includes four modified Dale Carnegie Training sessions.

In addition to the Dale Carnegie classes, Empower will include a blend of workshops that focus on mindfulness, leadership, executive functioning skills, building a positive digital footprint, professional networking, and more. There will be keynote speakers, active sessions, and networking breakfasts in which the students will interact with professionals from a multitude of career paths in order to practice their new-found networking skills.

Fox Chapel Area High School junior Tori Crittendon, who has already signed up for the summer program, anticipates that it will help her be able to communicate better in a work environment and also help her feel more confident when interviewing and speaking with adults. “I think it’s a good résumé builder and it will help me become a better leader. I will be learning things people don’t learn until they’re actually in a work environment,” she said. Freshman Xavier Perry agreed saying that he anticipates the program will help him learn leadership skills that will enable him to be the best that he can be, while still helping others realize their potential for success.

Need-based financial aid is available for the Empower2018 program and there are discounts for families enrolling more than one child. Enrollees also receive a 50 percent discount on the career-related summer Fox Chapel Area Online (FCAO) courses, College and Career Essentials and SAT Prep. The Empower program was developed by Mrs. Gibson; Fox Chapel Area High School Lead Principal Michael Hower; Fox Chapel Area High School social studies teacher Lesley Cowles, Ed.D.; and Fox Chapel Area School District’s Online Learning Coordinator Randi Leonard.



## EMPOWER2018

### Comprehensive Leadership Program

June 18-22, 25-28 & July 10, 12, 17 & 19

8:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

For incoming 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders

Price: \$800

- Eight complete Dale Carnegie Training™ Skills for Success for Young Adults sessions
- Two eligible college credits for completing full Dale Carnegie course
- Interactions with motivational speakers and business professionals

### Emerging Leadership Program

June 18-22 & 25-28

8:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

For incoming 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders

Price: \$400

- Four modified Dale Carnegie Training sessions
- Interactions with motivational speakers and business professionals

### FIRST STEP for Incoming Freshmen

Also associated with Empower2018 is FIRST STEP, a five-day preparatory program specifically designed for incoming Fox Chapel Area High School freshmen. Students will practice academic strategies for success including understanding the importance of their cyber profile, discovering their leadership potential, experiencing the value of teamwork, and identifying and utilizing quality resources. Additionally, students will acquire personal, interpersonal, organizational, and learning skills and strategies enabling success in high school and beyond.

“FIRST STEP Empower2018 will focus on the necessities of high school transition, learning skill-sets, thinking strategies and executive functioning skills, and intrapersonal & interpersonal leadership skills,” according to high school social studies teacher Lesley Cowles, Ed.D., who is the program’s coordinator.

The FIRST STEP program will be held June 18-22. Tuition is \$50 and students will take part in Empower2018 motivational and keynote speaker events. District transportation and financial aid are available for FIRST STEP.

For more information, visit [wpalearning.fcasd.edu](http://wpalearning.fcasd.edu), contact Lisa Gibson at 412/967-2479, or email [Lisa\\_Gibson@fcasd.edu](mailto:Lisa_Gibson@fcasd.edu).