

**Planning for Success:  
Study of the US Institute for Student Leaders on Global Environmental Issues (GEI)**

*“To lead others, first lead yourself.”*

GEI is for Student Leaders. Whether you already feel you are a leader or want to become a leader, GEI will help you. There are all different ways to lead. Good leaders know the right type of leadership needed in each situation. A good leader also knows when to lead and when to follow. In GEI you will learn more about how and when to lead, and more about yourself as a leader.

Everyone can be a leader. But how do you learn leadership? There’s no easy answers, but at the East-West Center we teach that you must Plan (or Vision) first, then you must take Action, and finally you must Reflect and improve for next time. We call this the Plan>Act>Reflect cycle. During the Institute, you will repeat this cycle often.



We’ll start with the first step now, Plan. We do this exercise with all our leadership programs at East-West Center. It’s called Planning for Success.

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*“The best way to predict the future is to create it.” – Peter Drucker*

Your first assignment is a Futures Visioning Exercise. It is a skill used by Futurists. These are people that use tools and techniques to plan for the many possible futures that could happen. Most importantly, they help others imagine the many possible futures, especially their preferred future, and help them create that future for themselves and their community. Futurists have shown that by visioning what you want to happen in the future, you make it more likely to happen. Rather than just saying what you hope will happen in the future, you really imagine it happening. Futures Studies is a growing academic field of study. The first Center for Futures Studies was started at the University of Hawaii, and still thrives today. For more info: [www.futures.hawaii.edu/](http://www.futures.hawaii.edu/)

Below, we are asking you to imagine a conversation with a close friend in which you predict what you will be able to say to him or her. Instead of saying ‘I *hope* I learn this’, we are using a Futurist tool, which is to say ‘I *will* learn this’. We are asking you to really imagine the details of the conversation. You can even imagine where you are sitting and what it will feel like at that moment.

**Imagine it is Monday, August 12, 2013.** You have just arrived home at the end of five weeks in the US. You are excited to be home, but sad to have left your new GEI friends. GEI was one of the best experiences of your life and you can’t wait to tell your family and friends about it. You can’t believe how much you’ve learned and grown as a person. You have new skills and confidence. You can now communicate and work very well with international teams. You’ve met so many Americans and seen how they live and work. You understand environmental challenges in several US locations and have new ideas about how to solve environmental challenges in your community. You have learned more about yourself and leadership than you imagined was possible in 5 weeks.

When you arrive home you meet your closest friend. The friend wants to know what you’ve learned. You meet to talk about your experience. Your friend really wants to know all the details. Your friend asks you the following questions during the conversation. You answer each one with specific details. Write your answers to your friend’s questions now. The friend asks:

- “What did you learn about yourself during GEI?”
- “What did you learn about leadership?”
- “Tell me, what did you learn about global environmental issues?”
- “And, What did you learn about the United States?”

After answering your friends questions, email what you have written to Christina Monroe [MonroeC@EastWestCenter.org] by **Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>**. This will be the first step in establishing your goals for the Institute.

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*“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.” - John F. Kennedy*