The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
The Problem

DIVERSITY OF REGULAR CHARACTERS OF PRIMETIME SCRIPTED BROADCAST, 2022-2023 SEASON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th># OF CHARACTERS</th>
<th>PERCENTAGES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STRAIGHT</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>LGBTQ</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
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*two transgender characters are also straight

Table from GLAAD’s Where We Are On TV 2022-2023 Report
Mental Health Among LGBTQ+ Youth

Anxiety: 73%
Depression: 58%

Data from Trevor Project’s “2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health”
Goal Statement

Create a documentary with five queer Rutgers students talking about how LGBTQ+ representation has impacted their lives and queer identity formation.

1. Inform allies and creatives about how life saving LGBTQ+ representation is for queer youth and show them how they can support community in the fight for more representation.

2. Empower LGBTQ+ people by sharing their stories and hearing stories from their community.
Intellectual/Conceptual Foundation

- Storytelling for Social Change (Borum and Feldman, 2017)
- Identity Development through New Media (Craig and McInroy, 2014)
- Identity Exploration (Halverson, 2010)
- Youth Activist Toolkit (Gasch and Flynn, 2019)

Source: IMDb
Products

Media as a Mirror
A SOCIAL ACTION DOCUMENTARY
A REFLECTION OF THE QUEER EXPERIENCE
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17
ACADEMIC BUILDING WEST ROOM 1190 - 7 PM

Five queer Rutgers students talk about the importance of LGBTQ+ representation in media. Followed by a Q&A with the director.

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY KAITLYN FUNG
### Outreach

**Incredibly honored to be one of our queer students that took part in this conversation!**

**Media as a Mirror**

Support @kaitlynfung and her documentary if you’re a Rutgers student or alumni!

Nubia had some great things to say and you won’t want to miss it!

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Org</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Nubia Franklin</td>
<td>LLEGO</td>
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<td>Stephanie P.</td>
<td>Kiran Ganesh</td>
<td>Q+A</td>
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<td>Julie Rajan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nico Toepfer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Audrey Arias-Justo</td>
<td>BIPOC MGSA</td>
<td>Text</td>
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Timeline

**Summer**
Storyboarding, research documentaries, preliminary meetings and cast.

**August**
Schedule interviews, secure equipment, establish vision for set.

**September**
Create interview questions, film interviews.

**October**
Transcribe interviews and start editing. Create promotional material and start advertising.

**November**
Send out drafts, finish editing and screen the film.

**The Future**
Review feedback, edit again, rescreen in the spring, and submit to film festivals.
Before viewing, how likely were you to go out of your way to seek out queer media?

19 responses

Not very likely: 2 (10.5%)
Very likely: 6 (31.6%)
After viewing, how likely are you to support/seek out queer media knowing the impact it can have?

19 responses

- 0 (0%) Not very likely
- 0 (0%) 1
- 0 (0%) 2
- 5 (26.3%) 3
- 14 (73.7%) 4
- 1 (5.3%) 5

Very likely
Before viewing, how much did you know about LGBTQ+ representation (its impact, the lack of it, etc)

19 responses

- 1 (5.3%) Not much at all
- 0 (0%) Not much at all
- 8 (42.1%) Very knowledgeable
- 7 (36.8%) Very knowledgeable
- 3 (15.8%) Very knowledgeable
How effective was the documentary in educating and raising awareness for LGBTQ+ representation in media?
19 responses

Not effective (Didn’t learn much)  
0 (0%)  
0 (0%)  
1 (5.3%)  
Very effective (Learned a lot)  
15 (78.9%)  
3 (15.8%)
I learned...

“How important it is for even the most niche of intersectional identities to be represented.”

“How representation is important to helping shape individual identities and confidence, rather than simply being a means of progression in the public eye.”
“[Please] release the film I [want to] watch with my parents, I think it would really help them understand me more.”

“As a fellow queer, I wanted to cry throughout about seven times. I have never felt so safe and seen in a room before. I felt enlightened by some of the points made by the brave people who spoke in your film.”
Feminist Leadership

Feminist interviewing (Herron, 2023)

Community & collaboration

Identity evolution
Insights

Filmmaking

Confidence

Adaptability
Special Thanks

- SAP Advisor: Laura Transue
- Sam Fenkel
- Nubia Finklin, Maddison Van Der Mark, Navya Terapalli, Kiran Ganesh, Ethan Rust
- Professor Mary Trigg
- Sasha Taner
- Emily Haran
- Institute for Women’s Leadership Staff
- Leadership Scholars Class of 2024
- Lindsay Jeffers at SJE
- Maddie Cortes
- Bridge Zhang


