Dear First Cohort of the Emerging Leaders Academy:

Welcome to the inaugural session of the first cohort of the Emerging Leaders Academy (ELA). You are participating in the newest iteration of leadership programming at ISU, a program we intend to turn into a tradition.

Leadership development programs and opportunities have been an important component of the corporate community for many years, and in recent times, a growing trend in higher education. We believe the Emerging Leaders Academy offers great promise and the likelihood of high reward. The ELA curriculum is based upon the current canon of leadership literature and successful programs around the country; it has been vetted by the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost, the ELA Advisory Committee, and current ISU administrators across campus.

Specifically, ELA is a response to a campus survey that recommended more opportunities should be created for leadership development; discussions with ISU administrators about the need to support aspiring faculty and staff who wish to pursue leadership positions, the need to support those recently selected for leadership positions; and the positive experiences many at Iowa State have had with leadership development programs at other campuses.

I believe our integrated curriculum, visually represented by the accompanying Program Model, provides opportunities for personal exploration and self understanding, reflection, leadership skills development, applying new knowledge about the complexity of higher education organizations, and understanding the importance of communication skills and strategic thinking. Again, welcome to the Emerging Leaders Academy!

Best wishes,

Elizabeth Hoffman
Executive Vice President and Provost