**KLI: Empowering Student Leaders Wherever They Go**

In late May, the 2015 class of Kairos Leadership Initiative (KLI) students and their leaders held a week-long retreat along the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Together they worshipped, prayed, learned, and fellowshipped, as they enjoyed a chance to breathe after finishing final exams just a couple weeks earlier.

KLI is a year-long program for college-aged young adults who are high-potential leaders in their communities. They come from all walks of life and vocational callings. The goal is for participants to make a greater Kingdom impact wherever they are regardless of their vocational or volunteer context.

KLI is designed to help those leaders identify their identity in Christ, explore their personal strengths and gifts, and discern where God is calling them to serve in their communities as leaders. The experience includes a weekend retreat in January, a week-long retreat in May, and coaching and mentoring opportunities throughout the year.

Led by Baptist campus ministers along with guest teachers, the students participated in several learning sessions each day that covered different aspects of leadership.

In one session, Darrell Cook, campus minister at the Virginia Tech Baptist Collegiate Ministry, challenged students to recognize and
accept significant leadership and ministry moments in their everyday campus life. “You are leaders with a calling on your life,” Cook said. “As you minister, you will walk through valleys where you’ll want to step out, but you need to press on. God will provide.”

John Upton, Executive Director of the Baptist General Association of Virginia, met with students one morning and reflected on leadership lessons he’s learned from his personal journey.

“When you’re in leadership roles, you’ll go places and do things you never imagined,” he said. “I didn’t choose this life. God chose me for this.”

“This week has definitely stretched me,” said Margo Diehl, a pre-med student from James Madison University. “I’ve thoroughly enjoyed my time here.”

“This is such a great group of students,” beamed Susan McBride, team leader for the Emerging Leaders team of the BGAV. “We seem to have found a rhythm in finding top-notch young leaders.”

Ministries like this one are made possible by the generous Cooperative Missions gifts of Virginia Baptist churches affiliated with the Baptist General Association of Virginia. Read more Kingdom Stories at BGAV.org/blog.

For more information about how you and your church can be involved in the Kairos Leadership Initiative, contact:

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