Thank you for listening to this edition of Career Cast. Career Casts are Podcasts brought to you by the Career Center in the Sam M. Walton College of Business. My name is Renee Clay; I’m the Assistant Director of your Walton College Career Center. In this Podcast I’m going to tell you a little about a terrific new program that is brand new and available to you. It is called Leadership Walton. Leadership Walton is a program that is a partnership between the Walton College Career Center and Undergraduate Programs. I am going to tell you about the mission of Leadership Walton. Leadership Walton mission is to be a unique blend of academic, leadership and career development opportunities specifically designed to guide you the student toward lifelong professional success. As we partnered with undergraduate programs we look to create a program that would provide you with more than just career path management. We wanted to mix in other things, we wanted academic components, we wanted leadership components, and we wanted service leadership opportunities. To provide you with a well rounded experience that includes things that recruiters look for when they look to hire you. Our objective is to develop skills sets in the area of career, professional and leadership development, as well as to provide an understanding of the scope of the challenging professional environment and the subsequent success skills formulation and implementation needed to ensure lifelong achievement. What we want this program to do, is to prepare you for the best that you can be forever. It is a defined progression of professional development requirements; it will enhance your educational experience. It combines some things that you may already be taking with leadership, other academic learning, and professional career development training. What we think this program will help you do is put together all of the things, as I said, a company looks for when they review your resume. Some of the main things companies look for include: solid academic performance, work experience (work experience relative to your major is even better), and they look for an all important connection to campus and to community. By participating in Leadership Walton we will help lead you through the process of developing all of these areas. From your perspective students, what you’ll get out of it. In addition to the skills you’ll develop, you’ll also get to attend exclusive networking event over the course of time that it will take you to finish this program. We are estimating that it will take you a couple of academic years. If you’ll look on our website, waltoncollege.uark.edu/leadership, you’ll see the kind of suggested path of projection. In addition to all of those things you will be learning, those networking opportunities will be key, and they will be exclusive opportunities, where the student audience there is Leadership Walton students only and recruiters. From the perspectives of recruiters, students, I can tell you the companies that we have already talked to are very excited about Leadership Walton. Leadership Walton will provide them a ready pool of students that are developing themselves, that are developing that qualities and skills that they are looking for and doing it in a way that will provide them skills that will allow you to go straight in to their workplace and make an immediate impact and difference. That is what a recruit is looking for. They will be able to look to the Leadership Walton students to fulfill these requirements. When we developed this program with undergraduate programs, we wanted multiple perspectives, so we talked to the dean’s student advisory, so we got your peers perspective on what you would want out of it. Overwhelmingly these networking opportunities were key for you. Additionally I will tell you students you will be recognized at graduation, likely in the form of a cord that signifies the fact that you completed the Leadership Walton program. One of the other groups that we sought their perspective on developing this program was the Career Center employer advisory board. And to a person that group was excited about the opportunity to participate in a program like this. The gentlemen who chairs our advisory board said it best when he said to me a meeting not long ago that one of their main reasons that he was excited about Leadership Walton was because they find it very difficult to get to know you as a student in a 30-minute interview, or even two or three 30-minute interviews. That’s typically how their decision making process works but they find it very difficult to really get to know you. And from his perspective he is excited about getting able to know you over the course of time. He gets to know you and present to you the many opportunities. Not just opportunities within his company but to the many
opportunities and the many kinds of things you can do with your business degree, and do it over a course of time. His interest is building a relationship with YOU the Leadership Walton participant that’s a though that is shared by the employers that we have talked to. This program will allow them to more fully be able to get to know you, a Leadership Walton Participant. We are controlling the size of the program. If you are interested in Leadership Walton, interest in being a part of it, we have a very loosely defined first application deadline. September 1st we are going to look take a look at Leadership Walton and take a look at how many freshman we have in the program that will then drive the number of upper-classmen that we will be able to let in. By September 15th all applications for Leadership Walton should be in. Now again if you are interested in Leadership Walton please visit our website at waltoncollege.uark.edu/leadership. There in the left frame you will be able to click and see kind of the suggested course of progression. Remember your are going to need a couple of academic years to complete this, so seniors if you are listening there may not be time for you. UNLESS you have done some other professional development type programs, if you have I want you to come see me in Walker Hall room 226 and let’s talk about it. But keep those timeframes in mind, keep that application date in mind, and give some serious, serious consideration to being part of Leadership Walton, there is nothing as we did our research and created this program looking at what other colleges of business across the nation do, including the other top 25 schools. As we looked around we found many professional development type programs, we found that many that had leadership programs, but we found none, zero, that had a program quite like this. So think seriously about being in this inaugural Leadership Walton class. Visit that website, the application is an online form that you click and send to us. Please do that soon. Give Leadership Walton serious, serious consideration. This is the kind of program that can be your set apart when it comes to recruitment. This is the kind of program that can set you apart from other applicants and this is a program that can set you apart from other applicants from other universities. It can truly, truly make a difference in your future, so give Leadership Walton serious consideration. Thanks listening to this podcast, my name is Rene Clay, I’m the Assistant Director of your Walton College Career Center, we will be bring you other career casts later on in this semester, and Welcome Back to School.