



What people are saying about The LeaderShape® Institute... (in 2003)

“Honestly, I wasn’t all that excited about the week going into it, but it turned out to be a truly incredible experience. I learned that I have so much to learn about other cultures and people and I was very encouraged by the level of acceptance that I saw among the diversity of people at The LeaderShape Institute. Also, being a person who has never seen myself as much of a leader, I was amazed that my new friends could see that, and the way that they encouraged me and challenged me to step outside my comfort zone and grow—really meant a lot to me. We barely knew each other, and I have never experienced getting that comfortable with people I didn’t know that quickly before. The week made me think a lot about how I live my life and how I want to impact my campus this year. I left LeaderShape really excited about the amazing people I had met and feeling more ready to take on the fall semester than I ever had in previous years. And besides all that...I really had a lot of fun. I really think it is going to make a difference in the future by developing strong, effective leaders of integrity.”

Rachel Muehling
University of Illinois

“I’ve learned something life-changing from everyone in my LeaderShape session.”

Nicole Alberti
University of Nevada-Reno

“LeaderShape provided me with an extremely positive environment where I could cultivate and express my thoughts freely. Now I am bringing back new ideas and a new attitude to my student and personal life. I am now walking more with a sense of purpose. Also, and perhaps most importantly, I was able to connect with people facing many of the same challenges that I am. My new friendships are what truly made my time at LeaderShape worthwhile. Some of my most memorable times of the week were just sitting on the couch talking late into the night with other LeaderShapers. The lessons I have learned and the friendships I have formed will last me a lifetime. Thanks again for investing in my future.”

Gerald L. Oliver II
Duke University

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“The week was absolutely unbelievable. I learned so much from The LeaderShape Institute, but more importantly...the people. LeaderShape allowed me to see my vision with new clarity.”

Amber Jones
Eastern Kentucky University

“It is impossible to express to you the vast amount of personal growth that I experienced over the course of one week. It was also amazing to meet so many fabulous people who are now friends for life. I would honestly recommend this experience to anyone willing to challenge themselves and embark upon a journey of vision. Thank you again for allowing me this powerful, life-altering experience.”

Marisa Adelman
Colorado State University

“LeaderShape was the most amazing experience I have ever faced. I was very impressed by how it taught me in order to be a great leader, you need to teach others to lead. It taught from every aspect: how to learn and lead in a community, teamwork, how to be acceptable to change and diversity, how to look at integrity, and most of all, how to build a vision. I can't express myself enough how grateful I am to have been able to attend The LeaderShape Institute.”

Kellie Hayes
University of Nevada-Reno

“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I've realized that I've learned that with an open ear and open heart, I can really reach other people – my peers, my coworkers, my friends, anyone! I also realized how much I have to offer as a leader and left The LeaderShape Institute energized and encouraged about my vision and about sharing it with others.

Some of my 'highs' for the week included becoming closer than I ever thought possible with 70 other people, learning about people who were very different from myself and how alike we can really be, and discovering things about myself that I never knew before.”

Jill Honea
Millersville University

“This experience is one I will never forget. It was honestly one of the best weeks of my life. I never thought I could learn so much in so little time. It was a week of self-discovery and self-growth. I returned home with a new sense of myself and my abilities. I was filled with the motivation and inspiration to change the world. I only wish that all young people could attend LeaderShape so that they too could realize how one person truly can make a difference. I believe in the power of words and discussions. The

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LeaderShape Institute brought out my passion of helping others through discussion. Everything I learned, all the wonderful people I met, the bonds I created, and all the emotion I shared will remain in my heart forever. I am so thankful to have been given this very special opportunity—without it—I would have never discovered the real me.”

Kellie Chesire
Creighton University

“During the one week time period, I learned more than how to be a better leader. I learned what it means to have integrity, to be that better person, to have goals and a vision, and most importantly, how to connect with people.

To show you how truly, wonderful this experience really was I would like to leave you with some quotes that were written after LeaderShape by other students that were there, ‘Thank you to everyone for making this past week so memorable for me. Like I said to my cluster, before I came, I was a guy who held high positions, and now that I’ve left, I feel like a leader, and thank you for that,’ said Mike Bowers. ‘The things that were said and felt were very very real and moving. I hope that we will all stay in touch because I think that we can all help each other achieve the visions that we have developed. More than any other conference that I have attended, this one has really shown potential to be more useful than the money and the time put into it,’ Winston Rose.”

Shannon Hamelin
University of San Francisco

“My experience at LeaderShape was life-changing. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn, grow, and meet amazing individuals.

After attending LeaderShape, I’ve learned that there are individuals who really care about leading with integrity and who want to help others. Starting today, I am beginning to make my vision a reality.”

Erica Basora
Rollins College

“LeaderShape taught me many things but to sum it all up I would say, that I truly took the time to look within and enhance my leadership from the inside out. To truly lead with integrity you need to know who you are and more importantly your core values. The week at LeaderShape was a life-changing experience for me.”

Sherry Manning
Student Body President
University of Redlands

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“The LeaderShape Institute was one of the most fascinating, eye opening, and emotional weeks of my life. LeaderShape rocked my world in a way I didn’t know possible. It was a first class program that I’m blessed to have taken part in. Thanks to people like you, amazing things occur in the lives of young leaders. Words cannot do my experience justice.”

Darin Martinez
University of Missouri-Kansas City

“I want to thank you so much for making the most amazing experience of my life possible. Until LeaderShape, I thought I was just another teenager with unreachable goals...and that no one my age understood me. LeaderShape introduced me to 70 individuals with similar visions and aspirations to my own; these new friends of mine have revealed hope and encouragement to a confused leader. These couple weeks after leaving The LeaderShape Institute, my heart remains full of passion and perseverance. No one has ever recognized so much truth about my character before. The raw flow and vulnerable emotions expressed by such strong leaders was so refreshing...and beautiful. A glance at my LeaderShape picture at any time of discouragement puts an instant boost into my smile. Thank you for supporting and putting your faith into such an indescribable, uplifting, motivating program.”

Chrissy Cardinell
Rollins College

“LeaderShape truly had an immeasurable impact on my leadership skills, character, and perception of the world. When I first arrived at The LeaderShape Institute, I had brought with me a suitcase, a backpack, and a closed mind plagued with frustrations, intolerance, and stubbornness. At the time, I thought I was tolerant and open-minded. In the end, I departed The LeaderShape Institute on that fateful Sunday morning with my suitcase, backpack, and a revitalized consciousness dedicated to embracing new ideas, diversity, and flexibility.

And that was just a taste of what I learned. (You’ll have to buy my multi-volume encyclopedia entitled, ‘What I learned at LeaderShape,’ when I finish writing it in ten years.)

I continue to converse with the students whom shared the experience with me, and we all agree it was far more than the mere leadership conference we had expected. It was a once-in-a-lifetime lesson in relationships and the benefits of real diversity. More importantly though, we realized we are not alone in our endeavors to make a positive change in the way the world works. As I walk on my campus following the experience, I am inspired with a new sense of determination.

My appreciation for your help is, as I said before, unsatisfied by words. Therefore, I beseech you to continue helping those like me who desperately need this experience. LeaderShape begins with the question, ‘What if everybody led with integrity?’ I believe

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the continuation of this program may eventually eliminate the hypothetical nature of that inquiry.”

Brandon Stewart
University of Nevada-Reno

“The thing that stands out most from the LeaderShape experience for me is the fact that this question was at the heart of the training—‘Should things be done this way?’ I feel fortunate to have attended a leadership development conference that transcends scheduling, running meetings, and making posters—and encourages student leaders to do everything that they engage in with integrity and the courage to be forceful when it is appropriate.

I am proud to be an alumnus of the program, and I am still ‘buzzing’ on the energy created by such an intentional community.”

Sean McDonald
University of North Carolina-Asheville

“My time at The LeaderShape Institute this past week was one of profound contrast—one where the personal insight I gained sprang from what was at first for me a frighteningly impersonal environment. However, throughout the week it transformed to a place of honesty, trust, camaraderie, and comfort. I have made leaps and bounds in rediscovering my own character, in understanding my strengths and weaknesses, and in learning how to live as the person that I wish to be. My perceptions were time and again challenged and in redefining myself I realized a new perspective of what it means to be a leader.

I have returned with renewed inspiration for the tasks that I will soon be undertaking and feel ready to tackle them with enthusiasm and integrity. I was also able to meet some amazing individuals and form some incredible relationships. From these encouraging people I have gained new strength and a vision of the kind of leader that I want to be.”

Emily Yocom
Colorado School of Mines

“The six day adventure was one of the best learning experiences of my life. Students and teachers helped reveal a side to me that I was always afraid to let out. Through inspirational discussions, thought-provoking activities, and encouragement from my ‘family cluster,’ I gradually stepped out of my comfort zone. I became more open to opinions and not so closed-minded. I was prepared to better myself. I found that trusting through risk taking encompasses a wide range of positive results. You helped me discover how I can create the healthy disregard for the impossible.”

Maryjun Ko
University of Missouri-Kansas City

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“I had the best time of my life! I feel so challenged and inspired by the amazing curriculum, and all the people I met are fascinating!”

Rebecca Jones
Ball State University

“It was a life-changing experience! Who knew that only six days at The LeaderShape Institute could open up my eyes to the world and its possibilities! I’ve learned countless things about myself, and my role as a leader, that would never have been realized had I not spent that incredible week at The LeaderShape Institute. The atmosphere itself was full of positive energy and the other young leaders I met and developed relationships with only added to this uplifting experience.

After attending, I realized that I’ve learned so much more about myself as well as what being a leader really means. I now know the utter importance of always having integrity, consideration, passion, duty, loyalty, and the need to find an inner balance. I’ve also realized I need to speak up more to get my ideas heard, and I need to be more assertive and realize that one person CANNOT do everything! This goes with the need to learn the importance of delegation and saying, ‘No.’

This is something that everyone should be so lucky to participate in. Coming out of this I feel like I can do anything! I can’t say enough about what a positive experience this was and how much this has changed my life! All I can say is that anyone in a leadership role on campus just has to experience it! I had a life-altering experience during those six days that will stay with me forever!”

Michelle Goetz
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I realized that I have learned better and more efficient ways to lead. I am the Student Body President at Chapman University and in this position I can use all the techniques I learned this week. I really enjoyed this week for a few reasons. Number one was definitely the people I met. Both the students and the facilitators were awesome. It’s not too often that you get to be in the same building with so many incredible people who are all working towards the same kinds of goals. It allowed for great conversations and chances to learn.”

Bryan Lovell
Student Body President
Chapman University

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“I don’t know how to thank you enough for contributing to one of the most significant learning experiences I have yet to encounter. It was a very fulfilling week of self-discovery and personal growth. No words could even begin to describe that incredible week I had. Meeting the people at LeaderShape was like a breath of fresh air.”

Carrie Kelley
University of Nevada-Reno

“I cannot express all that I gained from my 6 days at The LeaderShape Institute. I could have never guessed that I would have learned so much and had so much fun in just 6 days. I learned a lot about myself and my capabilities as a leader. I loved everything about LeaderShape.”

Nicole Lee
North Carolina State University

“Words cannot aptly express how profound this experience has been for me. I went on a journey of self-discovery, a sort of re-birth. I went to LeaderShape wanting to become an effective leader but I have left it as a person who wishes to lead with integrity, one who is driven by passion and a vision, a person who wants to take the world by storm.

‘I am LeaderShape.’ This is something we were told and something I strongly believe in. Having graduated from The LeaderShape Institute, I intend on remaining a part of the program in any way possible. I am a LeaderShaper for life, and look forward to seeing the program thrive in years to come.”

Scott Tharp
Elmhurst College

“My core values about leading with integrity were reinforced. It was refreshing to meet so many leaders who have been or now will be leading with integrity. Another part of LeaderShape that will aid me significantly throughout my life will be improved communication with people with different styles of leadership and how to present ideas in a way that appeals to them. Another great opportunity that LeaderShape provides is that of networking. I now talk with leaders throughout the nation and will be interested in seeing how this world changes as a result of all of us developing further. Thank you again for your contribution to my success.”

Bunny Dugo
St. John Fisher College

“I just wanted to write you and sincerely thank you for helping me have the opportunity to attend The LeaderShape Institute. It was truly a life-changing experience. I met amazing student leaders from all over the nation, created a vision for myself, and learned a lot about my ethics and values.

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After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I've realized that I've learned that leaders give away all of the credit and take all the blame; that leading with integrity is the only way to lead; that one person can make a difference; and that anything is possible. I will always remember my experience."

Lyndsey Hummert
Student Body Vice-President
Southern Methodist University

"Now that I have come back home and settled down from my experience at LeaderShape, I have had time to really soak in the experience. Words can only express the gratitude I have for being given the opportunity; no, the privilege, to mesh with the pool of young minds, which The LeaderShape Institute put together.

After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I have changed in both my aspects in life as well as my leadership skills. I have learned to think BIG and BOLD! To be an outstanding person, to lead with integrity, and to have fun. Having fun and meeting new people was the key ingredient for me.

Again, thank you so much for helping to make my LeaderShape experience possible and one to remember for a long time. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and if I had a chance to do it again...I would."

Vicente Beltran
Arizona State University

"To be honest, I did not know what to expect, but everything that I heard about the program was fantastic. My friend put it best when he said, 'Not often do you have an opportunity to change your life and thinking. I really don't know how to describe it, but you'll love it.' He wasn't lying. I loved every minute of the conference and took advantage of its great facilities and interesting character. I can't say enough about this conference and what it had to offer. I will never forget the friends that I met or the things that I have learned. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to attend this fantastic conference."

Jeffrey Belote
Vice President for House
Chapman University

"It was an absolutely wonderful experience – one that I will never forget. I learned so much about myself, and that anything can happen, especially with over 60 new life-long friends to help and support me. I want to thank you for allowing me to have that experience and meet so many great individuals."

Liz Hamilton
Randolph-Macon College

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“LeaderShape has changed the way I want to live my life. I hope someday my kids will attend LeaderShape and thanks to people like you, myself and others have the opportunity to attend such a lovely event. Thank you again.”

Cynthia Wanbaugh
University of Nevada-Las Vegas

“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized that I’ve learned how important it is to be an effective leader. There are so many things that I didn’t think of before, but now I realize how much the little things count. This week, I made so many friends with so many different types of people and I have learned something from each one of them. Again, thank you for giving me such a wonderful opportunity. I have made lifelong friends and learned lifelong lessons.”

Farah Rajan
University of Texas-Austin

“LeaderShape was the one conference I have been to out of 20, which has touched me the way the very first leadership seminar I attended did (and that was almost 4 years ago). Not only did I meet other students from around the country, but I learned things that I believe are valuable in everyone’s life. The program design is what makes it work from my point of view. Each day represents and gears itself toward the young adult, the changes and challenges in his/her life, and the steps that young adults must take to continue down the path toward being a successful leader.”

Jess Horton
North Carolina State University

“While at LeaderShape my eyes were opened to the myriad of other possibilities, lifestyles, and cultures that exist. I think that I learned the most valuable lessons from experiencing my peers in a comfortable environment that allowed us to be ourselves without concern for ridicule or judgment. Some of my favorite memories from the week are shared with these peers.

Again, I want to thank you from making a difference in my life by making this opportunity a reality for me, and I hope that I will in turn, be able to make a difference in the lives of others.”

Lindsay LaPlaca
St. John Fisher College

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“Thank you for allowing me to attend LeaderShape. It was an opportunity and experience I will never forget. I have a better understanding of who I am and have the formed new inspirations in the process.”

William Heard
Marquette University

“I have never been so impacted my entire life. LeaderShape is something every person should experience.”

Laura Clark
Boise State University

“To put the experience into words does not really do it justice and I find it difficult to describe. I suppose I would say that it helped me to identify those issues that really affect leadership through an engaging, integrity-filled program. Thanks again for this wonderful opportunity.”

Jennifer Mieliulis
Elmhurst College

“It was a truly spectacular and enriching experience. The lessons I learned and the friends I made will forever have an impact on my life. My LeaderShape experience and the leadership skills I learned have become absolutely invaluable. As I plan for the upcoming semester, I am finding that I use the information I gained at LeaderShape in more ways that I had ever anticipated. Most importantly, I feel as if I have acquired a strong support network through the relationships I formed at The LeaderShape Institute. Since returning home, I have kept in touch with as many people as I possibly can, and I continue to learn and grow through my contact with them.

I can see now that LeaderShape is about more than a week long conference; it's about discovering hidden potential and developing the necessary resources and relationships to maximize that potential. Thanks to LeaderShape, I now feel as if I have the tools to make a contribution and to improve the world around me.”

Rebecca Stubbs
University of Arkansas

“It was a life-changing event that I think back to and reflect on each day. The only challenge now is to apply everything I learned, which is definitely exciting. LeaderShape opened me up and allowed me to go outside my ‘box.’ Thank you again.”

Kelli Vomacka
University of Nebraska-Omaha

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“LeaderShape is a unique opportunity to interact with students from across the nation, of different cultures and backgrounds, and to learn what they feel it means to ‘lead with integrity.’”

Abby Elliott
University of Central Florida

“LeaderShape was one of the most incredible weeks of my life. Not only was the material presented, outstanding, but the environment was unbelievable. There have only been a handful of times in my life where I have been surrounded by such a supportive group of people.”

Bethany Heinzen
College of Saint Benedict

“To express my thanks for making my LeaderShape week possible, it was suggested to explain some of the things I learned from my LeaderShape experience. Unfortunately, my printer has only so much paper and ink.

LeaderShape was a wonderful opportunity to interact with students all over the country and world that had different beliefs and ways of life. I have never been in such a mentally stimulating and emotionally stimulating situation before. And even though the students and I may have come from different backgrounds and have different belief systems, we all realized that many of our core beliefs are essentially the same.

That is probably the most important lesson I learned at LeaderShape. Even if my vision never comes to pass, I have at least acquired a greater understanding and acceptance of other people and their cultures. If only everyone had that opportunity and epiphany, then the world would truly become a better place.”

Chelsea Wood
Fisher High School

“I want to thank you sincerely for giving me the opportunity to be with other young people for an intensive week of leadership and personal development. After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized that I’ve learned more about different cultures and regions of the United States through people representing those cultures and regions. I’ve learned that anyone can be a leader and all types of personality types can contribute to good leadership skills. I’ve learned how important it is to foster an inclusive environment as a leader and that everyone’s voice must be heard and appreciated, no matter what the circumstances. I’ve also learned how important it is to provide an open, non-discriminatory, learning environment for all groups of people. I’ve learned how important teamwork is and how important it is to lead with integrity, as well as how important it is to know when to be a leader and when to be a follower and to know that you will have to be a follower at some time. I’ve also learned that all types of people make up a group someone can lead and a good leader must know the strengths

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and weaknesses of these various groups of people as well as how they can best work together to accomplish a common goal.”

Elizabeth Ward
Clemson University

“The week that I spent at The LeaderShape Institute was completely amazing—an experience that has made a significant impact on the rest of my life. I have more confidence in myself as a leader, and have developed a direction for my organization.”

Jaeann Bollinger
University of Central Florida

“It was an unbelievable experience. Never before have I been in a room filled with so many people with such wonderful dreams and believed every person had the desire and will to see those visions through. It was very enlightening to listen to other participant’s thoughts and experiences and I met some truly fantastic people I know I will stay in contact with.”

Kirstin Phelps
University of Illinois

“In six days time, I and the 60 other participants created a community of respect, compassion and trust. We learned to challenge ourselves, forget stereotypes and have a healthy disregard for the impossible. We discovered what it means to truly live and lead with integrity. We created friendship bonds that will last a lifetime. My life is forever changed because of my experience at LeaderShape.”

Brooke Davy
Colorado State University

“Last week was the most fun and enriching week of my life.”

Lucy Williams
North Carolina State University

“My experience at LeaderShape was like no-other, and it has given me new insight and hope that our world has a bright future as long as there are programs like LeaderShape, and people like the individuals I had the honor to live with last week.”

Jill Harrison
Lehigh University

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“I had, by far, the most amazing experience of my life. I learned so much about others and myself, and did things I never thought I’d do. I’ve also met 60 incredible people, some of which I’ll talk to for the rest of my life.”

Jen Cox
Christopher Newport University

“During the week at The LeaderShape Institute, I learned how much growth I have yet to experience both personally and as a leader. The focus on integrity and creating a vision proved to be some of the best leadership training I have had.”

Stephanie Warner
Purdue University

“It was a tremendous growth experience. I connected with deep and diverse people while clarifying my own personal values.”

Livy Knox
University of Texas-Austin

“Describing the impact the experience had on me in this short letter would be next to impossible, however the word ‘life-changing’ might be able to touch on it. During one short week, I met so many extraordinary people, people I was able to form actual friendships with (over the course of only 6 days), and people who I imagine will have a phenomenal impact on the world in the next few years.”

Katie Chafin
Lehigh University

“I just had one of the best weeks of my life and I couldn’t thank you enough. Some of the most important things I’ve learned while I was there, is how to lead with integrity and how to make my dreams as a leader—reality. I have so much more faith in myself as a leader, as well as my peers around this country.”

Mandy Ralls
University of Nevada-Reno

“It was by far, the most enjoyable thing I have done since starting college. Not only that, but I actually learned a great deal. I took four different leadership seminars my last year at college, lasting from either 8 weeks to all year long. But I learned more from 6 days at LeaderShape than I did from any of the other seminars I attended.

I also made a lot of lasting friendships at the conference. I got to know people at the conference better than I have in the past—and in most other classes I have taken. The session on leading with integrity really opened my eyes. Especially, how since most people think they lead with integrity, but after our activity, it made us think. So, thank

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you again for helping me go to the conference, the most fun, and most thought provoking experience I've had in college."

Robert Steele
Colorado State University

"My LeaderShape experience will positively impact the decisions I make for the rest of my life."

Charlene Houston
Cheyney University

"It was an absolutely wonderful experience that taught me a great deal about myself, others, and how to make changes in the world today.

LeaderShape was an intensive conference that helped me improve in a number of aspects of my life. I learned a lot about people and how to work best with their needs. I met amazing, young aspiring leaders that I will hopefully keep in touch with. I learned more about myself than expected. Not only did I gain knowledge of how to lead others to reach their goals, but I was challenged to bring leadership to my everyday life...always leading with integrity and honesty with others in mind. I also learned, unfortunately, that our world can be an evil place to live at times. People can be deceitful, dishonest, and self-centered. The challenge that everyone faces is not only to maintain their goals, beliefs and values through life's many trials, but to push others to their limits and make them stretch further...reach higher places and accomplish a greater good.

It was a once in a lifetime experience, and I am ever so thankful for the opportunity. If every leader who attends LeaderShape continues with their talents, motivation, goals and aspirations, our world will be a better place...I recommend it to all! Thanks again!"

Chelsea Schwab
Colorado State University

"I would like to explain the impact LeaderShape has had on me. To be honest, I was somewhat satisfied with who I was as a leader and how my values and morals have been established; however, I must say that I have never stepped up to the plate and truly expressed those values and morals. It is this, leading with integrity, walking the talk as opposed to doing nothing which is what I had done before, that has so graciously influenced me in all areas, personally, professionally, and as a student. Thank you for giving me hope, confidence, and the tools in which to carry this out!"

Regina Demis
University of Northern Colorado

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“This program is so much more than what I first thought it would be. I’ve attended many different leadership conferences and seminars, but LeaderShape was remarkably different than all of them—it helped me gain insight on myself and realize what it is I want to change.

Thank you again for being such a big help in the lives of numerous students just like me. I will always be grateful for the help that you have given to help so many students experience such a life-altering event.”

Carly Sweder
University of Nevada-Reno

“I cannot begin to thank you enough for giving me the opportunity to be with other absolutely amazing students from around the country for an entire week which we spent learning, sharing ideas, and developing leadership.

Because of the time I spent at LeaderShape, I have learned important lessons about myself, others and leadership which never would have occurred without this experience. I believe the most important thing I learned and should always remember is that leaders must be able to lead with integrity at all times. One of the most significant things I was taught is that the little things do count and it is what you do when no one is watching that says the most about you. This is not something I had previously given much thought to, however, I do believe in the importance of it. I also learned that others have so much passion for their visions and with this real change can truly occur. Lastly, I learned that others not only support my vision and feel that it really can be achieved, but are willing to do whatever they can to help me see it through.”

Laura Bassette
Lehigh University

“Nearly ‘impossible to articulate’ would be an accurate delineation of the experience I had at The LeaderShape Institute.

I was elected Student Body President at Boise State University when I was only a sophomore and have spent years, including four in the U.S. Military, in leadership roles. However, the week at The LeaderShape Institute provided me with more and better tools that will assist me in doing all that I can, for myself, my family, and my fellow citizens of the world. Thank you for making this happen.”

Christopher Mathias
Boise State University

“After attending The LeaderShape Institute I have been able to come to many realizations such as the impact that one person can have on the world. I left The LeaderShape Institute feeling like I really can tackle any challenge that falls in my way. Most importantly, I learned the most from other students attending LeaderShape. This

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group is honestly the most diverse group of individuals that I have ever been involved with and I truly feel like I am a better person for having this exposure. The week spent at The LeaderShape Institute is truly one of the best experiences I have ever received. I could have never imagined that a week spent at leadership conference could have truly changed many of my outlooks on life, but LeaderShape has proven to surprise me in this regard.”

Jay Scholl
University of Illinois

“I found it hard to make my way to bed each night because I knew there were so many great conversations going on with all these young leaders concentrated in one place.

I learned a lot about different styles of leadership and how to hopefully bridge the gap between them all in group settings in order to make the vision or project work out and come to fruition. This was some very good information for me as I am more of a passive leader, not so much up in everyone’s face. Many more exercises and speeches and readings spun around in my brain as I tried to wrap myself around the idea of effective leadership. On leading with integrity—through this idea of working on what it takes to be a good leader to others I found myself introspecting on who I was as a person. What my ideals and most important priorities are. Because without knowing myself and being comfortable with who I am, or at least the changing person that I am, it will be tough directing others. So I got to work on both my inner self and also my outer self in relation to others.

I believe that every young person should be exposed to this kind of enlightening experience. It is truly a great program.”

Adam Buehler
Colorado State University

“As a result of LeaderShape I am going to challenge myself to act with integrity. Integrity to me is what you are doing and the decisions you are making when you think no one else is watching. As I learned at LeaderShape, it begins with the heart and ends in results.”

Shelby Krebs
New Mexico State University

“My experience at The LeaderShape Institute has proven to me that our nation still has young and dedicated individuals, with visions of shaping the world for the better. I hope that one day, I may become as committed to building young leaders through organizations such as LeaderShape. I humbly thank you.”

Pao Lee
Hamline University

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“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized that I’ve learned so many different things from young and eager people who have different opinions and ideas on life. It gave me great insight of the world and how much one can learn from others. I also discovered a very determined and creative inner-self that I never knew I had until LeaderShape.”

Noelle Carlo
Pace University

“There are no words to express the amazing time that I had at LeaderShape. I’ve met so many incredible people and I’ve learned so much about myself and how to make myself a better leader. I want to personally thank you for giving me the opportunity to realize my dreams.

I’ve been challenged to look at myself and how I interact with others over this past week and LeaderShape helped me to rise to that challenge. No matter what happens in my future I know that I am a better person because of LeaderShape. I’ve realized that integrity is one of the most important qualities that an individual can possess. I’ve learned how to truly listen and what it means to accept constructive criticism.”

Jessica Knight
Second Vice-President
Millsaps College

“I’ll never forget the first night when I got a chance to meet those who I would be working with throughout the following week, my ‘family cluster.’ I sat there thinking to myself, ‘I’ll never be able to relate to them, they are all so different.’ I was caught in a place where I was struggling to find someone to relate to. This would be my biggest learning experience.

By the end of the week, through many hours sharing with my family cluster, I was able to relate and trust my group. LeaderShape was able to set up a program that brought us together despite our backgrounds. The whole experience is one I never want to forget. I was challenged. I was encouraged. I was stretched. I was questioned. I was motivated. I was able to experience what it means to know someone for who they really are; the inside is what counts. The week really has challenged me to lead with integrity, not only in my individual life, but in all aspects of my life. I want to lead others to make decisions of integrity.

I hope you realize what an impact you make. You have taken part in shaping the next generation of leaders.”

Nathan Tilghman
Lehigh University

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“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized that I’ve learned a lot about myself. I discovered the values that I intend to live my life by and recognize a few of them to be respect, honesty, and achievement. I’ve gained a clear understanding of my personality type and how to utilize it to work toward a common goal, as well as, learning about other personality types and how each interacts with one another. Finally, I’ve awakened several passions in myself to work toward in the future.”

Michelle Ross
Kettering University

“I had the opportunity to visualize myself in a way that no one else has challenged me to do. All in all it was a very intense week that stretched my mind in a way that I never thought possible.

After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I realize what is important to me now and further off into the future. This visualization will help me to plan my future and continue to be successful at whatever I choose to do.

I would like to thank you again for the opportunity to attend The LeaderShape Institute. It was an experience that I will remember forever. If I was asked to go back, I would not hesitate to be a student or a facilitator in this program.”

Noel Todd
University of Nevada-Las Vegas

“Throughout my week at LeaderShape, I was able to learn about myself, others, and the art of communicating. I began to understand why certain people respond to certain actions while others do not. This information will enable me to more effectively communicate my ideas to others, thus enabling me to progress further in life.

Thank you so much for allowing me to take an ordinary week and change my life. This has been an experience I will never forget.”

Jolie McCuisiton
Texas A&M University

“LeaderShape is truly an opportunity of a lifetime. It has been over a week since I returned back to the ‘real world’ and it is still difficult for me to put into words how exceptional of an experience it was, but I will do the best I can. First of all, it was not what I was expecting at all. I anticipated six full days of either cheesy icebreakers or stiff lectures giving step-by-step instructions on ‘how to be a leader.’ Needless to say, I could not have been more off the mark on both accounts.

I have never met a more fascinating and diverse group of peers that were so open to share their lives and experiences. I learned a lot from them and we are determined to stay in touch with each other.

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This experience has not only changed who I am, but changed how I view myself and the world around me. I have met over 50 engaging, unique, and inspiring people from all over the country that I can count on for support. I, in turn, have been inspired to have a healthy disregard for the impossible and to forever chase my dreams. Thank you.”

Jess Brutsche
Lehigh University

“I wanted to take this time to thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to experience a week of learning, laughter, and excitement with some of the most amazing people from colleges and universities throughout the country.

After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I have already had people tell me that they see a change in me. I have learned a great deal about myself and how to be a more effective communicator and listener. It was very enlightening to hear how people perceived me, and how different that perception was from my own.

The incredible relationships that I formed with each of the participants throughout the week started with day one and culminated at the end of an emotional day six. Day seven back at home for me was very challenging, but the continued spirit of those people whom I encountered made me realize that they would be in my heart forever. Through these individuals, as well as the facilitators, I realized and truly believed that anything I dreamed could become a reality. Stepping outside your comfort zone and reaching for the impossible are things that I now believe make a leader special. Being surrounded and touched by so many incredible people has left an imprint on my heart, and I only hope that I can touch those in my daily life the same way the people I spent the last week with at The LeaderShape Institute have touched me.

This experience will stay in my heart and mind forever, and is something that I hope many, many others will get to experience.”

Julie Wilbert
Pittsburg State University

“I had a wonderful time at The LeaderShape Institute. More than actually learning how to lead, I learned what kind of leader I am, and what kind of leader I want to be. I sat down and put on paper my core values and goals for life. I learned more about my personality type and what drives me.”

Katy Jo Schroer
Student Alumni Association President
Georgia Institute of Technology

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“Learning about what matters most to me has helped me steer my fear and better understand that my decisions to communicate my thoughts are always in my hands.

Without a doubt, the most useful thing that I brought away from the week was learning how to fully develop my visions. Having the opportunity to sit down and develop my vision was invaluable to me. I now feel comfortable enough where I can go through the same process for every aspect of my life.”

Kit Fuhrman
University of Central Florida

“In my wildest dreams, I never imagined the insight and knowledge that LeaderShape gave me, as well as all of the wonderful leaders that will most likely become friends for life.

LeaderShape gave me the chance to learn about my individual leadership style, pushed me past my comfort zone by challenging me to work in small groups with larger numbers of leaders. This experience tested my patience, but also taught me how I react when others take charge, or when they will not relent their leadership.

I think that living and leading with integrity is the most important thing for our leaders of today to consider when they look at their leadership practices. If everyone lead with integrity, even most of the time, the world would be a very different place.”

Janine Tobben
University of Missouri-Columbia

“I cannot emphasize enough what a great experience I had. At this conference, I acquired memories that will last a lifetime. Not only did I gain knowledge on how to become a better leader, but I also got the opportunity to meet with students whom I share morals, values, and beliefs.

I believe that every college student who is in any organization should attend the conference. It is an experience in which words can do no justice.”

Jen Rodriguez
University of Texas-Austin

“It was a great experience for me full of leadership development, group interaction and personal growth. In a word, it was inspiring. To see so many committed leaders working together to better themselves was truly awesome. I felt that we all combined together to create a powerful energy, which made anything possible. Though the session lasted only six days, I feel that I have changed in a way I can't describe.

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I know I will look back on this week as one of the greatest experiences in my life. I was sad to leave everyone on the last day, but I am grateful I could spend as much time as I did with them, learning and growing as a person.

I hope you will continue to make it possible for others to feel what I have by attending LeaderShape. I know I will recommend this program to anyone I can.”

Cam DeCoster
Colorado State University

“My time at The LeaderShape Institute was literally one of the best weeks of my life. I put together a vision with the support and encouragement of all the people there, and I know that I can see that vision come to fruition. I also met some of the most amazing people that will remain my friends for a lifetime.

Before I left for LeaderShape, I was nervous about what I was getting myself into. I found myself immersed in an environment that helped me be more creative and open than I had ever been before. I cannot say enough about what The LeaderShape Institute has done for me. It is about so much more than just leadership.

I hope you continue to support students and their visions. This is an experience that every student leader should have the opportunity to undertake. Thank you so much for allowing me to participate in LeaderShape.”

Holly Willman
University of Indianapolis

“I am writing this letter to thank you for allowing me this opportunity to be with other young people for an amazing week of leadership and personal development. Being with all the other young people who wanted to make an impact on the world as much as I did made me very excited. It was a great week that gave me a very positive outlook for the future, not only on my campus but also around the nation.

One thing from LeaderShape that stuck with me was when we were talking about taking our visions and putting them into action. One of the facilitators said something along the lines of the reason people don't take action is not for fear of failure, but rather for fear of succeeding. People are afraid of what they might be capable of if they applied themselves one hundred percent. This scares people because they don't want the pressure and responsibility that they feel comes with having this ability. After thinking about this I have realized that there are some areas in my life that I have done this. Since returning from LeaderShape, I have tried to identify these situations and tried to push myself to see what I am really capable of.

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This experience has been a once in a lifetime opportunity and I can't thank you enough. It has truly made a difference in my life. Thanks again for the amazing opportunity."

Adam Russ
Indiana University

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