



What people are saying about The LeaderShape® Institute... (in 2005)

“After attending LeaderShape, I realized that I learned an abundance about myself that I would have never learned without this experience. It was honestly one of those weeks I’ll never forget due to the sheer amount of self-realization that came about and the long lasting relationships I’ve formed.

Again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity which is something I will never forget.”

Michael Miriello
Millersville University

“Before I went to LeaderShape, I was reserved in group settings, constantly worried if my opinions were valid, and I always questioned my qualities as a leader. I often found myself holding back thoughts, afraid that others would be too critical. LeaderShape opened my eyes, teaching me that my opinions are completely valid and that being reserved at times is actually important within many group settings. I definitely came to LeaderShape feeling as if I wasn’t an effective leader; however, I left seeing the value in all leaders, whether dominant or conscientious and introspective. There is immense value in every person.

The greatest part of LeaderShape was certainly meeting so many different people with different backgrounds, but the same desire to improve the world. At times, those different backgrounds seemed as if they could be barriers, but on several occasions, those differences were fused together to produce positive synergy in order to overcome adversity.

It didn’t take long before I realized the true value in the fact that every person at LeaderShape had a vision to improve the lives of others. Without your support, I would have missed out on one of the most amazing experiences that there is for the young people in our country. Thank you!”

Caitlin Pfaffenbach
St. John Fisher College

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“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I see the world in a completely new light. I find myself helping strangers just for the sake of helping others. I see myself and others in a very positive light now. With the help of others, anything can be possible.”

Beth Pfeiffer
St. Ambrose University

“I learned how to lead with integrity, how to interact with other leaders, and so much more about myself.”

Amanda Crepps
University of Oregon

“When I first heard about LeaderShape, I really didn’t know what I was signing up for; to tell you the truth, I signed up only to think I was getting a little vacation, you know, get away for a few days, having no worries, things like that. But as I read more about it, I realized I was in for something that would better my leadership abilities and me for the rest of my life.

The main thing LeaderShape was about during my session, was to lead with integrity, and I thought to myself, LeaderShape doesn’t need to be for just students, it also needs to be for adults. I say that because there are a lot of business owners who don’t know the meaning of integrity.

On the last day, we were all saddened. We spent almost six whole days with one another, some of us becoming best friends, and then we had to go our separate ways, and it was hurtful. We shared some laughter, some tears, and we just couldn’t believe how fast those days went by. If I had a chance to do it again with the same people, I would jump to it in a heartbeat.

Again thank you, thank you, thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of LeaderShape, allowing me to learn so much of myself and those wonderful students and facilitators, and allowing me to become a better leader and so much more.”

Dominique Derival
St. Thomas University

“Please let me take this opportunity to say thank you. I cannot imagine having missed out on all the wonderful opportunities LeaderShape offered to me. It was not until the end of the week at LeaderShape that I realized just how much I learned. I met some potential lifelong friends, learned a lot about myself, and created a vision to strive for. During my week at LeaderShape I also learned that teamwork does things more efficiently, as we are all striving for the same goal. This experience actually made me feel interconnected with a group of individuals that I have never met.”

Marianne Bartko
St. Thomas University

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“Spending a week with traditional college students, with their energy and unabashed optimism for the future, re-ignited the optimism I once had. I learned I could still have faith in people and today’s younger adult generation was not to be feared. The young men and women I had the privilege to meet were all leaders and together we will make positive change in this world.

My fellow classmates looked up to me and somehow I inspired them and gave them courage and faith. I was not expecting that. I also learned to have faith in myself and my abilities. By expressing my passion for my vision, whether I accomplish it or not, I inspire people to strive for higher ideals; in risking failure so they create something greater than themselves. This is the passion of LeaderShape! It is so important that the next generation of leaders learn the importance of integrity, passion, (not necessarily religious faith), perseverance, and understanding. LeaderShape does it all.”

Ellwood Howard
Boise State University

“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized that I’ve learned a lot about myself. I was able to truly analyze how I interact with others. Doing this has helped me pick out my strengths and weaknesses in group interaction. I think this will be extremely beneficial in the future if I am able to work on my problem areas and take advantage of my personal strengths.

I think my biggest “high” was when I finally forced myself to step out of my comfort area and interact with people that seemed very different from me. Doing so not only allowed me to meet some remarkable people, but it made me realize how much I have in common with everyone else. I guess it’s important to celebrate our differences while still realizing how interconnected we really are.

I not only plan to work on my vision in college, but I can see myself continuing it when I enter the workforce as a teacher. I hope to show kids that they have potential and encourage them to make something great of their life. It was an experience I will never forget!”

Nikki Anders
St. John Fisher College

“This was absolutely one of the best experiences of my life, and I learned so much. It far exceeded my expectations. I challenged myself to step out of my comfort zone, and by doing that, I found a completely new and exciting piece of my life. I can’t wait to go back to school and to start implementing my vision.”

Liz Meyer
University of Florida

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“The men and women I met this week were truly amazing people with so much potential to achieve amazing things. The synergy of that group could never be replicated. I’ve learned so much from these individuals and have been inspired to do great things.

After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized many things about myself as a leader and as a person. I can now return to my university as a more self-aware individual and more equipped to interact with others. I feel much more confident in my abilities as a leader, and I am comfortable taking charge of situations. I have also learned to embrace my character and to surround myself with others who will compliment and challenge it. More important, however, I’ve learned that integrity is the most important quality of a leader and a person. I am more aware today of what my values are, and I feel more comfortable standing up for them in situations where they may be challenged. I feel more able to lead with integrity and am inspired to do great things for my campus and for the world.”

Jennifer Aylward
University of South Carolina

“I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in such a program with the most intellectual minds around not only the nation, but the world.

After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I have come to realize how unfinished I actually was. The LeaderShape Institute has undoubtedly reshaped the way I view the world and the people around me. I have traveled extensively throughout the world and it is a safe assumption this trip ranks as the top experience of my life. In the week we were all together I learned more about myself than I would have in several years.

The LeaderShape Institute has provided me a vision to work towards in life with goals to achieve along the way. It has set a clear path and provided me with the tools such as integrity and perseverance to achieve anything I set my mind to. I am anxious to apply my abilities obtained at The LeaderShape Institute and make a positive difference in the world.”

Travis Troutman
Millersville University

“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized that I learned the potential I have as a leader. I CAN make a difference in the world and in someone’s life.”

Aya Fukuda
East Tennessee State University

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“Being around so many different leaders from so many different backgrounds was truly inspirational for me. LeaderShape was truly an amazing experience. The biggest thing I was able to do during this time was reflect on who I am, not just as a leader, but also as a person. The activities The LeaderShape Institute had us do really helped me understand the way that I think, the way that I convey my messages, and the way that those messages are impressed on others.

I believe that I can make a difference, because I know that I can achieve anything if I put my mind to it. I had the confidence before I arrived for The LeaderShape Institute, but LeaderShape reinforced my confidence. I left LeaderShape believing that nothing can get in my way. This experience was unforgettable.”

Errol Wint
University of Louisville

“Returning from a week of The LeaderShape Institute was a life changing event. I learned many things about myself and others, especially how to work better with others in order to make a difference in the world. 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.

One lesson I leave LeaderShape with is how one person can make a difference. All our actions make a difference to someone. I learned that I still have a lot of self development ahead of me but I will continue to do that and LeaderShape showed me the steps to do it and that it will be a lifetime journey, not just a week event. These lessons will be with me forever and I’m so glad I had the opportunity to take part in LeaderShape.”

Dan Calandriello
Marquette University

“Now that we have returned from LeaderShape, we have made a commitment to proactively empower leaders to recognize their own identities, in essence to help others help themselves. LeaderShape has significantly enhanced our ability to not only do that but also to indirectly impact many other communities. Each relationship that we have formed with other LeaderShape participants will allow us to have discussions and share ideas in a comfortable manner, possibly influencing their communities. At LeaderShape, we were taught “the value of one and the power of all.” By providing us with the opportunity, you have brought our visions one step closer to reality.”

Mike Woodward
Michael McDaniels
Stanford University

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“I would like to sincerely thank you for the opportunity to attend LeaderShape. I believe that this experience has truly had an impact on my life. It has been about a month since I have returned home from LeaderShape. I met many people there who truly touched my heart and I will not forget them. When people support you and challenge you to be a better person at the same time it is hard to forget them. I think about this experience everyday and I have wondered what I might be like without this amazing experience.

LeaderShape has helped me the most in that now I feel recharged. Before I left for LeaderShape, I felt like I wanted to be done with my office. Now I have come up with different ideas to make my office better and to be a better leader. I know that I will not always have the answers to different problems that arise in my chapter, but now I have better focus and determination to figure out what those answers are. The process of leading with a plan and a vision that I have learned at LeaderShape has become an important tool for me. Thank you again for this amazing opportunity!”

Rachel Collier
Kansas State University

“Thank you for this amazing opportunity – I truly believe that I have come back as a better and more effective leader.”

Katy Fong
University of California-San Diego

“I want to personally thank you for giving me the opportunity to be with other leaders for an intensive week of leadership and personal development. After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized that I’ve learned my purpose, my passion, my vision, and my ability to go beyond the normal. I realized that I had to dig deep within myself to really discover who I am and to freely give myself to others. That was very powerful, because you have to know yourself before, you can truly lead others. Therefore, this is something that will forever stick with me and will help direct me as I make my vision come to life. Again, I thank you for this life changing opportunity!”

Lance Wardlaw
East Tennessee State University

“I learned so much about myself and other developing leaders while I was there. It was an amazing experience. I learned that I have the ability to achieve many things if I put my mind to it. It was a great experience.”

Courtney Becker
Loyola University

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“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized that I’ve learned that I can push myself and test my limits. I will not necessarily break, but stretch. I trusted the process enough to see what can happen when I stretch. I normally tend to be the quieter one in the bunch, not the shyest, but I don’t offer up a lot of opinions. After last week, I’ve learned that I should speak up more, that my opinions and ideas are valuable and I am a definite asset to the team.

After that exhilarating experience, I honestly felt changed. I cannot thank you enough for allowing me such a once-in-a-lifetime-chance. I got to meet some of the best people from across the country, share some amazing, unforgettable memories, create bonds that will never be broken, and develop more as a person and as a leader. I know everything I learned that week will be with me forever and help me live my life the way I want to live it...filled with integrity, passion, loyalty, and trust. Again, thank you for this WONDERFUL opportunity!”

Lauren Hewitt
Rowan University

“Throughout the week I discussed everything from discrimination and cultural identity, to ethics and the meaning and value of leading with integrity, with young people from all over the country. Through group activities and simulations, I gained valuable insights into my own behavior, as well as that of other people.

Often times I can’t help thinking that intellect gets in the way of leadership; too many doubts, too much of a gray area, and ideas that people don’t understand. But then when I look around I ask myself how much better the world would be if there were more intellectuals in leadership positions.

Since coming home from The LeaderShape Institute, I have committed to bridging my intellectual, philosophical side with my desire to act and make an impact on the world. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to learn and grow as a person and a leader.”

Asya Passinsky
University of California-Berkeley

“I had a great experience, and I learned so much about what I have the power to do. I can’t wait to go out and share my vision to help make it a reality. Again, thank you for giving me this opportunity.”

McCall Ashby
Utah State University

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“I can honestly say that LeaderShape has completely changed my life. There is not a day that goes by that I do not use something that I learned or discovered at LeaderShape.

After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized that I’ve learned a lot about myself and how to be an effective leader, I’ve learned how to identify my strengths and weaknesses, and how to work on them in my everyday life. I’ve learned what my personality type is. I’ve also learned how to work effectively with people of all different personality types. I learned how important having a strong sense of community is in a team. I’ve learned the importance of implementing positive change into my daily life, as well as into the organizations that I am a part of. I’ve learned the value of effective communication and active listening. Most of all, I’ve learned the value of living and leading with integrity.

Again, I would like to thank you for this life changing experience.”

Lisa Beckman
Pennsylvania State University

“It was a great experience and many life-long networks were formed. After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized that I am a better leader in others eyes than I ever thought I was. I’ve also realized that visions and changes in the world are made by people like me, who are persistent and never give up. Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity!”

Jenna Santoianni
Marquette University

“I was lucky enough to attend one of the sessions of The LeaderShape Institute with other students who are among some of the most amazing people that I have ever been privileged enough to meet. I did not know what to expect when I left for LeaderShape, but what I found there was truly life changing. The community that was established there made it possible for the utmost level of self-reflection and introspection, and I feel that I learned a great deal about not only how to lead with integrity in our world today, but also I learned a great deal about myself.”

Andrew Ricci
Mount Union College

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“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I realize that I’ve learned it is easier to make friends that I thought it would be. I’ve also learned that there are more people out there who are dedicated and motivated than I thought there were. I made some great friends this week who have touched me very deeply and I sincerely hope they stay in touch. Again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity!”

Rachel McMahon
St. Ambrose University

“I uncovered talents I never knew I had and realized my areas of improvement as a leader. Through the LeaderShape curriculum I learned how to further my skills and consciously work towards accomplishing my goals as a leader. Unlike most leadership conferences, The LeaderShape Institute constantly challenged us to commit to and develop our visions as a leader and to step out of our comfort zone in order to realize our full potential as leaders and the effects of our actions. The conference was an unforgettable experience.”

Jaclyn Tuason
California State University-Fullerton

“This leadership retreat is like none other I have ever attended. I met incredible and like-minded individuals who each taught me a valuable lesson. I left The LeaderShape Institute with life-long friends and people I could call my family. I never thought it was possible to feel so close to a group of people in just six days. The intense learning environment that LeaderShape provides lets everyone feel comfortable within hours. I must say that this leadership retreat has changed my life. LeaderShape is not an experience that is simple to describe – so much emotion, energy, synergy, and the actual participants are what make LeaderShape so great. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for this wonderful opportunity.”

Katherine Valle
University of Florida

“I must say that week spent at The LeaderShape Institute was one of the most amazing experiences I’ve ever had. I cannot even explain what a wonderful time I had there. The way the program was set up was just fabulous! I realized that I was afraid of a lot more things than I was aware of, but it was amazing to overcome those fears and actually accomplish every task. The people I met there were equally amazing and I know I’ve made many lasting friendships.”

Joellen Dinse
Medaille College

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“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. I feel so privileged to have met so many motivated and inspiring peers from around the country and I feel proud to call them my friends. Moreover, I loved working together as a family cluster, knowing that I was fully accepted by my family members and feeling able to be who I truly am. Lastly, I felt so full of love and happiness on the final night when our family cluster spent the time to talk individually with each member of the group and discuss what we admired most about each other. It was inspiring and a reaffirmation of my confidence to realize that, although I am not often the loudest in a group of people, my actions and my attempts to be a better person are not lost in the crowd, something I worry happens when I am on such a large campus. It was comforting to know that people value my opinions and my thoughts and respect me for the person that I am. Again, thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity! It has motivated me towards changing the world and making a difference, as well as being a support system for others with similar goals.”

Karen Reed
Tulane University

“I’ve realized that I’ve learned how to channel my feelings and emotions in order to help my cause. In certain situations, I can let how excited I am get in the way of the real important issue. This can make a completely logical and rational argument look absurd. LeaderShape, taught me how to speak passionately, not angrily. It was so great to see what motivates others and to also see how much in common I have with others.”

Charles Bowen, Jr.
University of North Carolina-Greensboro

“I thoroughly enjoyed my experience at The LeaderShape Institute and I am grateful for the opportunity to participate. The students I interacted with described their experiences as “powerful,” “motivating,” and “life-changing.” After experiencing first-hand the magnitude of The LeaderShape Institute through being a participant, I would certainly agree. This past week was one of the most intense and rewarding weeks of my life. Throughout the week I engaged in self-exploration and self-discovery. I searched myself to gain a greater understanding for the type of leader I am and the type of leader I want to become. During this process I had the support of other outstanding student leaders who challenged and supported me in my development. I forged many close relationships with the amazing people I met at LeaderShape and I am continuing to foster those relationships now. Thank you for investing in the future and for investing in educating tomorrow’s leaders to begin leading with integrity today.”

Lauren Ann Cove
University of Texas-Austin

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“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized that I’ve learned so many things about myself. Probably, most importantly, I realized that I can step outside of my comfort zone and not be afraid to share my opinion. Since I went alone, not knowing anyone, I had to gather up all my confidence and start to believe in myself more. All through life I have been very introverted and non-aggressive. However, I learned I need to sit in the front row of my life and participate more. I knew I if I was to get the most out of this experience, I needed to open my mind and become engaged in everything. I also realized different traits about myself that will help me to work more harmoniously with others. I know now that if I have a passion about something, I can turn that vision into a reality. The ability to make positive change in this world lies in each of us. All it takes is one individual’s vision and passion to make an everlasting, positive impact on society.

When I came home from The LeaderShape Institute, one of the first questions asked was ‘What was your favorite part?’ It is hard to say exactly what my favorite part of LeaderShape was, however, I definitely believe it is the friendships made there. I have only been away from them for a few days now and I miss everyone there like crazy. It is weird to me to have 60 college age students from, literally, every corner of the United States come together with absolutely nothing in common except for that passion to be a leader and make a difference. I know I share a bond with each of them that will last indefinitely. Throughout the week, as I was conversing with many of them, I realized how sheltered my life was. Because of this experience, my eyes were ‘opened’ and I am now able to see and be more understanding of other people and their beliefs.

In conclusion, The LeaderShape Institute was an indescribable 6-day learning experience in which I learned how to make any visions I have into realities. I learned many skills and values about myself that will not only help me to succeed as a leader on campus but to succeed at whatever I do in life.”

Jenna Hammonds
Texas A&M University

“I am great...and I bet you know why. I just got back from LeaderShape and it was great! Thank you for making a difference and believing in the younger generations. I met many great people at The LeaderShape Institute which I will remain friends with forever. I explored new ideas and things I never thought of before. I realized my passion and have a vision. I still believe the world is mostly good. Thank you for allowing me to become a part of the LeaderShape program.”

Jessica Parker
University of Texas-Dallas

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“At LeaderShape I was able to learn from other students who had similar aspirations and ideas as I do for the future. The program allowed me to learn in a very positive environment and the facilitators were constantly inspiring everyone to take advantage of the program. At LeaderShape, I was surrounded by some of the brightest and most motivated individuals that I have ever met.

LeaderShape allowed me to open myself in a way that gave others the opportunity to learn from me. I shared my background and struggles growing up and inspired individuals to be persistent in life. I was given the opportunity to give feedback as well as receive it from other students in order to open myself to different perspectives. My experience at LeaderShape will forever be a part of me.”

Jose Martinez
University of Southern California

“It is ‘Day Seven’ of The LeaderShape Institute agenda and my travel home has allowed me to reflect fondly on my LeaderShape experience: bonding with thoughtful students from around the country, challenging my own preconceptions, and learning to have a ‘healthy disregard for the impossible.’ I am truly thankful for the opportunity to attend such an inspiring week. I usually become very nervous when speaking in front of groups, but I was able to overcome my shyness, in part, when I got up in front of the entire group with my family cluster or gave my opinion on certain topics. While I was not as boisterous as some of the other participants, I felt more comfortable expressing my ideas in that group than I had in the past. I hope to use this experience as motivation to speak up in the future. Thank you again for your dedication to me and other emerging young leaders.”

Sydney Matlock
University of Southern California

“I had never thought of attending something like this before and I went in with skepticism about the experience. I couldn’t have been more wrong.

At LeaderShape I have learned more about myself in such a short period of time - what would have taken me years. I met people across the world that came here for a variety of reasons (student government, Greek life, rape awareness, non-profit organizations, etc.). All of these different kinds of people with very different perspectives on life gave me the most constructive feedback to building my vision back at home. Ever since I’ve returned I have been working to instill a new hope and vision in my organization, giving us confidence to succeed on campus.”

Andrew Finger
Texas State University

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“I recently returned home from a truly amazing week at LeaderShape. I learned a great deal about myself and tactics for being an effective leader. During my week at LeaderShape I enjoyed meeting fellow student leaders from all over the country and even some international students. I found it very enlightening to share ideas and stories with one another about our experiences and goals for our organizations. I have a number of goals I am confident I will manifest into results with the motivation and inspiration I acquired at LeaderShape.”

Daniel Sadowski
Drake University

“The experience has been nothing short of incredible. While at The LeaderShape Institute, I broadened my cultural perspective, found my voice as a leader, and developed a plan to further serve my community in the future. I learned that leadership is less about creating your own plan for others to follow than it is inspiring those people to help create a plan together. Thank you again for this opportunity.”

Lindsey Brown
Washburn University

“To put it simply, it was an experience I will never forget and I will always be grateful for. From my personal standpoint, LeaderShape allowed me to finally organize and articulate the vision that I had been wrestling with for over a year. At times I would question why some individuals succeed in society while others do not and what needs to happen for more individuals to realize the potential within themselves. Through my interactions with my peers and facilitators, I was able to pinpoint the bigger question and develop a strategy for answering it. It was the most enlightening experience of my life, I now have a clear picture of the impact that I want to have on society and tons of motivation to get my hands dirty and see it come to fruition.

LeaderShape also allowed me to cultivate friendships with extraordinary individuals from all over the country. Each of us had so much to offer each other due to our different life experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives. I’m excited about keeping in touch with these individuals for the rest of my life as well.

In closing, I went into LeaderShape with a high level of expectations because I had had conversations with individuals who had attended The LeaderShape Institute in the past. My experience went well beyond anything I imagined from those conversations. I can’t wait to volunteer my time and participate as a facilitator in the future to help others have the same experience as well. Thank you for supporting a fantastic program that has had a great impact on my life and lead to an experience that will never be matched.”

Nathan Hagler
Northern Kentucky University

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“Having been home from LeaderShape for a few days now, I look back on my experience and it is still hard to describe just what happened there. I’ve been to my share of leadership institutes and conferences, but nothing compares to LeaderShape. The LeaderShape Institute really helped me look inward at the type of person I am and how I related with people. I now have a much stronger understanding of my strengths and weaknesses and how to use both to my advantage. LeaderShape also provided me with a forum to discuss what kind of impact I want to make at my college and beyond. Most importantly, LeaderShape gave me a whole group of people from all over the country to experience the whole thing with. It is truly amazing how fast everyone became friends and I now see them as my own support group for anything I pursue in the future. I cannot wait for school to start, so I can begin using all that I gained this summer. I would like to extend my deepest thank you for helping me attend this life changing experience.”

Brandon Werner
Rowan University

“I’ve just returned from an exciting and challenging week at The LeaderShape Institute. 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. Some of my ‘highs’ for the week were meeting a new and wonderful network of college students from New York to California and abroad. The perspective I gained from these students is invaluable.”

Kara Watkins
Middle Tennessee State University

“I met so many passionate and inspiring individuals and learned things about myself and others that truly opened my eyes. I have come to realize our true potential as college students as well as the future leaders upon graduation. Most importantly I realized the value of leading with integrity, which is the LeaderShape core motto. This experience was truly unique and I feel so incredibly fortunate to have been able to attend. Thank you again.”

Annie Millstone
University of Arizona

“This week allowed me to discover goals and confidence within myself that I never knew I possessed. I am honored to have had this privilege. I will take the friendships and qualities that I have obtained and cherish them for a lifetime. Again, thank you for making it possible for me to attend this remarkable conference centered around shaping leaders with integrity!”

Kevin Smathers
University of Southern Mississippi

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“LeaderShape brought about a whole new vision for me as a leader. Not only did I learn more about my own style, I feel I also began to make the transition to more of a facilitator role with my peers. I found myself counseling, helping and supporting others in our group as opposed to focusing solely on myself. The most intense part of this experience was in the very end, when some esteemed peers told me I ‘inspired’ them to action. I can’t tell you how intensely fortunate I feel to have been given the opportunity to touch the lives of others in such a positive manner.”

Jaimi Kolehouse
Madison Area Technical College

“I have just returned from a week of unparalleled learning and growth at The LeaderShape Institute. 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. I had a wonderful time, and I was able to connect with so many inspiring individuals.

After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I have learned that I am a person who really values harmony. However, from my six days at LeaderShape I discovered that conflict may be more valuable than perfect harmony; by working through a disagreement one can learn a great deal more about oneself and ones coworkers than by avoiding it altogether.

On the fifth day of The LeaderShape Institute, we focused on leading with integrity and defining what is right and good for us. In speaking with individuals who had overcome some of the most difficult struggles facing America today, I realized that in our world what is right does not always coincide with reality. In the face of this harsh realization, I was comforted by the fact that I was sitting in a room with some of the most passionate students in America who were dedicated to making what is right a reality. It was truly empowering.

I want to thank you again for this wonderful opportunity. This week has had a profound effect on me as a person and my outlook on the world. I shared countless stories, hugs, laughs, and tears with the other students in my session, and it is something that I will never forget. I am truly grateful to have had the change to be a part of LeaderShape.”

Talia Kahn
Claremont McKenna College

“I was able to step outside of my comfort zone, meet students from all over the country and begin the implementation of two visions which I am very excited about! I gained an extremely valuable experience this summer.”

Jeanna Covington
University of North Carolina at Greensboro

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"I cannot express how thankful I am for giving me the opportunity to experience LeaderShape. It was exactly what I needed to rejuvenate my energy for the upcoming semester. I now have a better idea how to approach my new responsibilities as President. But more importantly, I learned about myself.

I actually believed I was a confident woman seeking to be more inspirational. However, I found out that I was not as confident as I believed myself to be and that I already am inspirational. Now that I am aware of this, I feel my confidence level to be at its highest. In fact, I walked into my internship at Deloitte & Touche with so much confidence that my initiative to make conversation eased nerves among the interns around me!

I am also very cognizant of the way I now behave. Thanks to LeaderShape, I see things not only through my eyes, but through the eyes of my fellow LeaderShapers as well! I am very blessed to have met the LeaderShape family and now know there was a reason why I was sent there – to inspire and be inspired. I can honestly say that I've learned so much more about myself and about being a leader in those 6 days than all of my 11 years of leadership involvement in student organizations."

Berniedette Flores
University of California-Berkeley

"During the week I learned so much about myself and the other leaders I spent the week with. Through this experience I gained a stronger belief in making my dreams into realities and I have my foot in the right direction."

Sharon Bose
University of Nevada-Las Vegas

"I had the best time of my life. The people (facilitators and students) were just AMAZING! Everyone was so forthcoming and positive which lead to an immediate family like atmosphere. It was such an amazing experience, I cried when I had to leave.

After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I realize that I learned a lot about myself as far as my leadership style and how to improve it, strengths that I bring to groups and weaknesses that will ultimately hold me back. Some of my 'highs' for the week include meeting new people and forming lasting relationships. But on an inner note I learned the value of teamwork. I am usually a more dominant person. I am all about getting things done the right way, the first time. At LeaderShape, I learned that two minds are greater than one. Actually allowing myself to participate in a group was so life-changing, I felt as though I grew a second head with a better attitude. Again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity! I wish that I could go every year for every session. It's just that good."

Janelle Williams
Cheyney University

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“I learned many new things and was taught a great deal. I was able to reflect with others who share the same goals, values, and passions as I do. I was reminded of who I truly am. I am now inspired to do what is thought to be the impossible, but I was taught at LeaderShape that success starts with one vision and nothing is impossible. I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet people from all over the world, make new friends, and form relationships that will last a lifetime. This has been a fantastic experience. Again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity.”

Andrea Hall
North Carolina Central University

“While attending LeaderShape I met amazing people who helped me grow and influenced my life in many ways. I learned about different cultures, how others are living in this country, and what different things people have been challenged by throughout their lives. This experience has opened my eyes and it is an indescribable feeling.

After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I realize that I’ve learned that I can make a difference in this world. I’ve always wanted to have an impact on someone’s life and now by attending LeaderShape I have the confidence that I can and will. I learned a lot about myself while being away from home. I learned that a group of individuals who are different and who are from all over the country can come together and have peace with one another.”

Kristen Dvorsky
St. John Fisher College

“I learned far more than I had ever expected to learn, and not only about leadership. I have read numerous books and have attended a leadership seminar before, but none of those taught me about leadership like LeaderShape did. I once heard that one person cannot possibly make a difference, and I somewhat believed the quote. My session at LeaderShape has completely overturned this belief, and I promise that I will use what I learned at LeaderShape to the fullest extent possible for the benefit of the world.”

Brook Li
Cornell University

“I left LeaderShape understanding how to lead with integrity and accomplish some personal goals I have set for myself as a leader. I know this experience will be something I’ll always remember and the lessons I have learned have become a part of my morals. Thank you again for supporting me!”

Justine Ma
Rowan University

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"I sincerely want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to spend the week with so many unique and diverse college students from around the country. I would also like to thank you for the great chance to develop my leadership skills and to learn how to live my life with integrity.

After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I've realized that I learned many new skills on how to act, live, and be a leader with integrity. I have learned to live in a world with many possibilities, achieving positive change, creating a vision and sharing it with others, living in a community with healthy relationships, and living my life through action and not just words. I met fantastic people and we bonded very quickly. We very much became a family. To know these people are the future of this world makes me feel secure and proud that I was able to meet them."

Sharlin Aldao
St. Thomas University

"I met wonderful people and most of all I met myself. These past six days have been amazing beyond words. Simple concepts about inclusive leadership, integrity, passion for a vision, and how to be a genuine and ethical person/leader all the sudden make real sense! We went step-by-step through formulating our own vision while discovering our own leadership styles and contributions to any community. The faculty at LeaderShape is so inspiring and encouraging that it is almost hard to fit back into my day-to-day life. I have changed! One of my fellow graduates said the following: 'I used to be afraid to act on my vision; now I am afraid not to.' I feel I am ready to conquer the world and make it a better place."

Sandra Werner
California State University Sacramento

"It was a tremendous journey – I am rejuvenated, inspired, and ready to change the world with integrity and vision. I had the chance to meet several amazing leaders who are now a very special part of me – people who I will never forget. I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Mandy Carden
Colgate University

"I realize that I have learned a lot about myself and trusting others. I also realize that different emotions, tears, and laughter, can teach us a great deal about community, leading with integrity, and setting goals towards a vision. Any leader with a new-found power in their hands needs to proceed with integrity, to be ethical and inclusive, so that no pressure builds up among the masses. Once again, thank you for presenting me with this wonderful opportunity. I know that as an international student myself, I can set an example and make a positive change!"

Kristina Gancheva
Elmhurst College

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“I’ve had difficulty trying to explain to people what I spent a week doing. I can hardly begin to describe it in writing, but I will try. The most important part of the week was the people. Even if there had been no agenda I feel like this group from around the nation would have greatly benefited from spending time together. What was most interesting and satisfying was watching us grow and develop in the six days we were together.

The week was truly enlightening. I learned more about myself that week than I have at any other time in my life. It was a chance for me to focus on what I would like to see happen in my life in all of the roles I play. I am halfway through a term as Co-President at my school. I was feeling burned out with the job at the end of the semester, but I have been revitalized and am now truly excited to see what we can accomplish this semester. I will be utilizing many of the tools I learned about at LeaderShape, a few of which are the use of long-term strategies, short and stretch goals, and how to create action plans for these goals.

A part of Earlham’s mission statement is ‘Awakening the Teacher Within.’ I never really paid attention to that phrase until after LeaderShape. The reflection at LeaderShape made me realize that my calling in life to help other people to grow. I truly feel I now have a focus that my life and education lacked before.”

Adam Putnam
Earlham College

“This was by far the best conference that I have yet to attend and I am sincerely grateful that you have allowed me to experience The LeaderShape Institute. Through praise and encouragement from the awesome individuals I was surrounded by all week I have learned what I am good at and what I need to work on relating to my leadership skills.

Before attending The LeaderShape Institute I did not know what to expect out of the week but by the time I left I could hardly imagine what would have made the week better. I have made great friendships with many emerging leaders from across the nation who will all continue to stand behind me and give me the encouragement necessary to continue becoming a great leader myself. I wish more people could experience a week at LeaderShape and I want to thank you for allowing myself and others the opportunity to attend. It is so amazing that you all see the potential in this program and I hope that you will continue to support The LeaderShape Institute.”

Erin Pryor
Butler University

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“For six days, I was surrounded by the most amazing people I’ve ever met and I was inspired in ways I never imagined. Thank you.

Working with people who truly want to help each other, I’ve come to realize the most important thing about being who I am. For several semesters, I’ve stumbled in and out of volunteer positions, and have given time to random charitable organizations. This was done just to volunteer. LeaderShape took me by the hand and led me to where I could see what I was truly searching for. With the help of my cluster and the group as a whole, I’ve been shown the greater good, and through that I’ve been inspired to do things that I hadn’t even dreamed were possible.

Never having been outside the demographic of my community, it was liberating to talk to the greatest and most diverse minds of my generation. Views and opinions were shared and explored on levels I never thought possible. In those six days, I’ve experienced many things for the first time, things that have changed who I am and who I will be on Day 7 – the rest of my life.”

Shaun Haulty
Valparaiso University

“LeaderShape was a great experience and I am very thankful that I was able to participate and broaden my horizons. The skills taught at LeaderShape were amazing and I learned many new things. I have learned how to better lead with integrity, how to respect diversity, and how to help others through example. I gained more confidence and feel better prepared to go back to school and lead with more ability.”

Anjilee Harris
Utah State University

“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I realize I’ve learned that it takes being a leader from within yourself to be able to lead others. Also, leading by example is probably the best way for people to see how integrity is truly lived, that way they can use it in their lives.”

Scott Walker
Millersville University of Pennsylvania

“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I’ve realized that leadership is a discipline which is exercised in many forms. By understanding my own behavior I am better able to work compatibly with other leaders to reach common goals. As a current business student I will work towards this goal by utilizing my LeaderShape training in all present and future corporate environments. Again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity!”

Kate Lukacs
American University

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“I am rather unaware of how to demonstrate appreciation for changing my life. I do not know how to say thank you for making me a better person by allowing me to go to such an out of this world conference as LeaderShape, so rather than saying thank you, I wanted to share with you a couple of things that I learned while I was there.

I learned that I am a person fortunate enough to be in a position to make positive changes in the world, and I am ashamed at how little I have taken advantage of it thus far. However, after LeaderShape, I am determined to make a difference in the lives of people. Too often, we neglect to listen to opinions because they point out flaws or mistakes we have made, and just as LeaderShape challenged me to grow from learning about some of my weaker points, I plan to challenge parents around the United States and elsewhere to change their behaviors.

Thank you so much. My life has been changed; I have changed. I am more aware of my surroundings and the importance of helping others who are less fortunate than me. Gandhi said that we should be the change we want to see in the world, and thanks to you, I have been inspired to do just that. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Stacey Foley
Louisiana State University

“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I realized that I have learned a lot about who I am and what I want to accomplish in my life. I have learned that there are numerous types of leaders. Each leader contributes to changing the world in their own way. Also, I learned about the consistency with my values. Throughout the week we were challenged to think and act outside of the box.”

Jenna Koperski
College of St. Mary

“After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I have realized that I am not as shy as I once thought I was. Although I have always felt comfortable interacting with my friends and family, in a leadership position I now feel that comfort too. Now I see how my shyness held me back before, and LeaderShape has helped me to do so.

LeaderShape taught me to be excited about my ideas, and never accept the impossible.”

Danielle George
California State University of Bakersfield

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“My six day experience was one that I will never forget. I arrived at LeaderShape nervous and apprehensive, but I left motivated, enlightened, and confident. I learned things about community, teamwork, leadership, vision, and integrity that I can use for the rest of my life. I gained personal insight that has forever changed me for the better.

While at LeaderShape, I met the most incredible people. All of us came from different schools, different states, and different organizations; we were different genders, different races, different religions, and of different sexual orientations. However, each of us embraced this diversity with inclusion. Therefore, my eyes were opened to great people whom I learned so much from. We started out being complete strangers, and after only six days together, we were crying because we had to say goodbye to one another.

I am a better person, a better leader, and a better dreamer. I am going to use the things that I learned at LeaderShape to impact my campus, my community, and the world. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Megan Salmi
Southeast Missouri State University

“Learning to reach for the stars while having understanding, focus, and determination was only one of the many lessons I discovered. LeaderShape did not focus on what I would bring back to my school; they did not worry about why I was sent. The focus was on learning more about you, trying something different, and being able to function in a group.”

Christine Kelly
Neumann College

“After attending LeaderShape, I have a greater understanding of what it means to be an effective leader. I now understand my skills and passions better and I know I will use my new leadership abilities to impact the world. I can never put into words the effect the LeaderShape Institute has had on my life and I will continue to be grateful to you for making this all possible. You will not be disappointed because the students at this and other sessions of LeaderShape will be the people who change the world.”

Amber Johnson
LaGrange College

“I learned that no matter the problems that the present and future hold, there are still people who both can and are willing to make a difference in the world; no matter the obstacles and consequences that they may encounter on their paths to success. I also learned that no matter how much I deny it, I can make a difference in this world and that the smallest difference can leave the biggest mark.”

Syrell Rodriguez
Thiel College

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