



What people are saying about The LeaderShape® Institute...

(in 2008)

Coming to this Institute I thought I was only going to learn about how to improve my leadership skills, but I walked away with so much more. I was able to learn from my fellow classmates and grow from their experiences. I really like how LeaderShape taught me that it was OK to be vulnerable and step out of my comfort zone. I normally hang out with people that are just like me and here I was able to hang out with others who are completely different from me. Working with others and depending on them has always been a challenge for me and this enabled me to learn how to work and trust a team.

Michelle Thompson
California State University–Sacramento

Beyond the concepts I established at LeaderShape, I created friendships with students across the country and a few just across the city. These friendships were built on a much deeper level than many friendships I have at college. I was able to share some of my most personal stories and explore my passions in the very unique and safe environment that is created at The LeaderShape Institute.

Josh Edgar
University of Minnesota–Twin Cities

I learned that my words are powerful tools which can both build up and inspire others. On multiple occasions I was told that when I speak people actually listen because they know that what I have to say is important. As such, I now know that I don't have to be the most talkative person in the room to make an impact. On the same token however, I also learned that great ideas have little potential if they are never voiced or shared so that they can become reality. This is truly an amazing and life-altering experience.

Andrea Lee
Florida International University

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I stepped into LeaderShape knowing that I wanted to make a change in education in developing cities, but I had not a clue of with whom I would create that change. My friends' passions lay in other areas, and I was, indeed, lost at one moment – I had no one to create that change with me. Today, with my newly found vision partner and friend, I am carrying out my vision. She and I are planning a trip to Navajo Nation together for spring break for both our schools. There, we will work at the local schools and try to improve the curriculum and better existing foundations. Little by little, city by city, we will create a change.

Thammika Songkaeo
Williams College

One important aspect I took away from this experience was that no one person can accomplish lofty goals by themselves. It is important to rely on the aid and support of all others. In fact The LeaderShape Institute helped me get to know fellow students, many of which became very close friends. It was an awesome experience.

Vera Kazaniwskyj
University of Illinois

This has been the best experience for me, showing me that I can make a difference in the world. The sky is the limit!

Naomi Deschampe
White Earth Tribal & Community College

It is such an amazing experience and I feel blessed to be here.

Yana Jmourko
University of Maryland

The week was an enlightening experience that helped me step out of my comfort zone and learn about how I can take action to transform my vision into reality. With the help of LeaderShape, I have learned the true meaning of being a leader. The LeaderShape Institute helped me identify my long-term vision and also helped think about how I can take action to work towards that vision. LeaderShape gave me the strength to actually think about how I can work to turn my vision into reality. LeaderShape and all the motivating individuals at the Institute have given me the inspiration to pursue my passion and I feel truly blessed for having this opportunity.

Akshay Goyal
University of Maryland

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I want to thank you sincerely for giving me the opportunity to develop my leadership ability with other young leaders from around the country and world. Not only did I learn a lot about myself, but also of the importance of diversity in my opinion and experience in others.

Alex McLelland
University of Mississippi

I have been challenged and stretched more than I thought I could be.

Brad Vannoy
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

It was an amazing six days, those of which I wouldn't change for the world. Not only did I make friends that will stay with me for a lifetime, but I also learned several life lessons that will help me for many years to come.

Jessica Carter
University of Arizona

It makes me happy to know that you have a passion for helping students achieve their leadership dreams. The LeaderShape Institute expanded my efforts to succeed in the future. I learned the true importance of personal reflection and goal management.

Ann Virgo
Kansas State University

My new friends at LeaderShape and I learned that leadership is a process. I learned that there is no vision too small or big that cannot become a reality when there is passion. A leader is someone who is committed to lead and guide with integrity. Integrity is not only referring to honesty and understanding, but also an individual's core ethical values. I truly enjoyed meeting new leaders and discussing their passions and visions. I would have never thought I would connect with so many young individuals, yet now I keep in contact with them daily. This wonderful learning encounter remains as one of the greatest impacts on my life.

Katie Maresca
Chapman University

My time at LeaderShape will stay with me for many years to come.

Brittany Davis Pulley
California Polytechnic State University–San Luis Obispo

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As a participant, I can't tell you how much of a positive and life-changing experience this has been. I have learned so many things and am now better prepared to lead.

Kelsey Hagan
Emory University

Throughout the week I was exposed to a diverse and passionate group of individuals who taught me how to effectively lead with integrity.

Amy Birkenstock
Lehigh University

I must admit that it has been something of a challenge for me to articulate just why my experience at LeaderShape was so fantastic. And I can tell you, after a week of trying, that it would be nearly impossible for me to recount the numerous activities I engage in that helped to change my perspective and develop my newfound vision. Once I started college, I began to feel like there was no longer room for my dreams and passions. I was stuck – I felt that there was only one road for me to follow, and it ultimately led to taking on my role in my family's business. To put it plainly, I stopped dreaming when I arrived on campus; I had begun focusing only on the possible. LeaderShape helped me push aside the possible and stretch for the impossible. I feel that I have a new, energized understanding of myself, of where I can find joy and how I can translate that into a passion that will affect positive change around me. The other part of LeaderShape that was entirely refreshing and affirming was to be surrounded by other people my age with the same level of energy and commitment.

Arianna Bodaghi
University of Puget Sound

I had both an amazing and inspiring week with a wonderful group of caring and like-minded individuals. I feel blessed to have had the opportunity to learn and grow as an individual and as a leader.

Mindy Sykes
University of North Florida

I found that LeaderShape was a leadership conference like none other I had ever experienced. As a typical involved college student, I've been to many such conferences before, and I was expecting to walk away with similar experiences that I would be able to share upon my return. However, I was faced with situations and life-altering opportunities at LeaderShape which left me feeling even more confident in myself and as a leader at my university. It was such a great opportunity for me not only to network with fellow students, but also a genuinely enjoyable experience where I truly met some great friends that I am positive I will still keep up with over the years.

Emily Charles
Washburn University

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Not only was [The LeaderShape Institute] a blast, it was sincerely challenging as well. From being at LeaderShape, I have taken with me countless wisdoms and insights from not only others, but myself as well. It has taught me an endless amount about myself and has given me so much hope and determination for the road to our future. I have found this experience so rewarding.

Zahra Sakkejha
University of Western Ontario

I started the week a bit skeptical of all that it would entail, and I ended the week with friends that I plan on staying in contact with for the rest of my life. Being a visionary, I was able to refine my future vision and learn some valuable steps that will enable me to one day make my vision reality.

Katie Davis
Baylor University

In high school, I would never have identified myself as a “natural-born leader” or even as a person who had the ability to lead others. So, once I got a taste of leadership on my college campus, I was eager to learn more about how I could be more effective. When I first heard about LeaderShape, it seemed like a great chance to expand myself further. I arrived in Champaign a little apprehensive of what I would encounter over the six days. But, having decided that I wanted to get as much out of my time at LeaderShape as possible, I very quickly started meeting other student leaders and learning more than I ever anticipated! The curriculum allowed me to really think about and define my own core values, and challenged me to really live up to them. For me, the ideals I value most are compassion, growth, and integrity. While these are all characteristics very important to me, I find they are also things I struggle to maintain on a daily basis. The six days at LeaderShape gave me more of an opportunity than ever before to really let these values show through. I now daily question myself before taking action, asking myself if I am making decisions that live up to my values. This has made me much more secure in my decisions, and given me the ability to show up as my true self in various situations. Because of my time at LeaderShape, not only am I more self-aware and self-confident, I am also more open to the ideas and perspectives of everyone around me. I cannot possibly think of a single more developing experience for an individual than LeaderShape. The passion inspired in me through LeaderShape I’m sure will prove to be contagious, and I am thrilled to see what will unfold in my future. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for such a life-changing opportunity.

Katelyn Wannage
Louisiana State University

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I can honestly say [The LeaderShape Institute] was one of the most powerful and life-changing experiences of my life. I am so hopeful for the future of the world after spending a week with so many other amazing and ambitious students. I have also developed a compelling obligation to do all I can to leave a positive footprint on the earth and lead with integrity.

Stuart Smith
University of North Carolina–Greensboro

This experience gave me a chance to learn and grow as a leader. I gained a number of insights into the way I lead and learned many ways I could improve my skills. I am currently a graduate student at the University of Kansas and can easily say LeaderShape is the most impactful experience I have had.

Matt Robinson
University of Kansas

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 realized I've learned my leadership style and am focused on what I am passionate about.

Cora Griffin
Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

I had such an amazing time and was astounded by the hope and courage of so many young people who want to impact the world. Thank you for this life-changing opportunity.

Stephanie Snodgrass
New Mexico State University

Before attending, I thought of myself as a quiet, unassuming individual who desired the ability to be the outspoken, take-charge leader. This week, I challenged myself to be more vocal and take control of situations, which is something I have always struggled to do. With the support of my fellow LeaderShapers, I spoke up not only in small groups, but also in front of the entire session (I was shaking like a leaf!) I learned that the only person holding me back from achieving my dreams is me, so I have to silence the voice in my head that tells me I can't – because now I know I can. Perhaps the most empowering aspect of LeaderShape has been the incredible relationships and bonds I have formed with other student leaders and our facilitators. I have been truly blessed to meet such amazing people who genuinely believe I can achieve my goals. I have learned what kind of people I need to surround myself with in order to keep pushing my vision forward.

Ashley Equi
Northeastern University

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Living and leading with integrity is so important. This was an amazing experience that has opened my eyes and motivated me to strive for my vision of helping others.

Karissa Kujak
Saint Cloud State University

I now know and can embrace my leadership style and use it to develop deeper relationships with those around me to create a web of support and make me more efficient.

Kelly Smith
Elmhurst College

I am now more self-aware. This week gave me the opportunity to look at myself and re-examine what is important to me as a leader and as a person. I was also able to gain insight as to how others view me as a leader, which allowed me to learn some things about myself I did not know before. I really enjoyed meeting people from across the nation because we all brought unique ideas and experiences to LeaderShape. All of the activities challenged me in different ways, and I know I will be forever changed from LeaderShape.

Shelby Stercic
Saint Xavier University

I've learned a solid definition of integrity. I also learned my leadership style in comparison to other people and what will make me a more effective person. The honesty and closeness that was attained in such a short period of time was probably one of the most incredible things of the week for me. Watching everyone grow so much in such a cool environment was truly incredible. Wonderful. Fantastic. Thank you again for this life-changing opportunity.

Kara Woodlee
University of Indianapolis

My time at The LeaderShape Institute was filled with learning, relationship building and personal growth. I was challenged to think beyond what I consider possible and to step outside my comfort zone. I met students from all over the U.S. with different ideas and perspectives to share with me and was also given the opportunity to share mine with them. I am grateful for this opportunity and will strongly encourage other leaders on my campus and in my community to attend.

Ashton Compton
University of Alaska–Fairbanks

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While only six days long, The LeaderShape Institute provides incomparable insight on creating a vision for one's community, leading with integrity, and working together to achieve lofty goals. What's more, it provides a forum in which to discuss some of the pressing issues facing society today with some of the brightest youths at American universities. This past week has been unforgettable.

Andrew Schwark
University of South Carolina

The other students were the most sincere people and had a huge impact on my life. The leaders were also incredible because they were all so honest. It has truly been a life-changing experience.

Lydia Greene
University of South Carolina

I not only made some incredible friends whose ideas and life stories I was able to share, but I also enjoyed furthering my knowledge of what type of leader I am, how to make a dream become a vision, and what I wish to see in the world.

Amber Arciero
Rollins College

What I have learned here will better prepare me for the "real world." This has been a wonderful experience!

Caitlin Ryan
Saint Xavier University

Coming into LeaderShape, I had expectations that it would be a worthwhile endeavor. I never could have imagined that this journey was profoundly life-changing. Some of the most fundamental aspects of leadership have been realized such as the ability to lead with integrity, remain in harmony and balance by being consistent with one's core values, and the power of relationship in accomplishing your vision. In addition to those crucial components of leadership, the amazingly deep relationships I've made have impacted me greatly. I never knew that such a wonderful group of people could forge such bonds within such a short amount of time. The diverse spectrum of participants from at least 20 different states and all regions of the nation gave me a good sample of the kinds of minds that exist. Meeting the other participants has restored my faith in the capacity of human intellect and will. I have hope, not just hope with a fleeting visage, but a hope with substance. Through this experience, I know in my heart that whether or not our visions change, that real, worthy and selfless creations will come to fruition from the participants here. We have all been moved, shifted closer to the pinnacle of success.

Michael Erickson
Elmhurst College

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I have been changed for the better by The LeaderShape Institute. I must admit I was a bit jaded going in, thinking that I had a decent grasp on what it meant to be a leader. As it would turn out I did have a solid grasp on leadership tenets, but what I didn't realize was the well of power and determination that laid inside of me. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to be one of a new breed of leaders, a breed that leads with integrity and who won't leave this world until they change it!

Caitlin Cox
University of New Hampshire

I had a truly great time and met a lot of great people. It was nice seeing that we have so many leaders in our world today. The experience was one of a lifetime and one that I will never forget.

Josh Franke
Otterbein College

Riding on the plane to The LeaderShape Institute, I was unsure about what I was about to experience. I had participated in several leadership workshops, retreats, and conferences before, and I expected LeaderShape would be more of the same. About one week later, while leaving, I told my new friends how I felt about the experience: "Nothing less than life-changing," I said. The environment I found myself in at LeaderShape was incredibly inspiring as were the facilitators, organizers, and participants. Previously unsure about the idea of a personal vision, now I felt an unprecedented inner energy to accomplish the goals I had outlined. I envisioned the future when I had fulfilled the goals, and chills ran up and down my neck. It's hard to explain in detail what I experienced at The LeaderShape Institute. When people ask I usually just say that it was an amazing, life-changing experience and that it was hard to leave the group of people I had grown so close to after just six days. Although it may be hard to put what I saw and experienced into words, the benefits of LeaderShape were made very clear to me. More students need to experience LeaderShape!

David Good
Rochester Institute of Technology

I've learned the importance of being more open to other people and not letting anything hold me back. I also learned that in order to make a difference in the world, I need to stay true to my morals and most importantly myself, eliminating negativity and showing more integrity.

Michael Liptrap
University of Washington-Tacoma

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[The LeaderShape Institute] was a life-changing experience. I learned invaluable leadership skills, learned from and bonded with other college leaders around the country, and most importantly learned about myself. It is experiences like LeaderShape that help leaders find their calling like I have. Thank you for opening the opportunity to me and for helping to make me a stronger leader and a better person for it.

Benjamin Zalisko
Elmhurst College

LeaderShape made me think about what I believe in and how I lead, and then showed me how to work better with others. The sense of friendship at The LeaderShape Institute was amazing. By Day 6, I knew almost every single person attending. More than just great memories, I am left with a tangible action plan for improving the world. It has made a positive impact on my life and the lives of so many others from across the country.

Joshua Villanueva
University of Florida

I can honestly say that going into this experience I was somewhat skeptical, however, I can state with complete confidence that this experience changed my life. I have realized that I have learned that honesty and trust are key attributes in life. Honesty is important because without being clear to yourself and others about your intentions, you have nothing, additionally if there is no trust then very little can be accomplished. Trust is vital in community formation, and is especially important in risk taking. After all you would not willingly bungee jump if you didn't trust that the rope would support you. I also learned that working together towards a common goal is always better than working individually, and so much more it would take more than one letter to discuss. However, I have come to conclusion that while I find myself a good leader, that there is always room for improvement, in every aspect of life. Those few days spent in Illinois were amazing, simply said. To replicate the experience would be impossible, and I wish to thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate.

Marissa Kapfhammer
Northeastern University

I met the most incredible and exceptional facilitators, and had the chance to learn from their experiences. I was challenged and encouraged to do anything I set my mind to. I have learned to push my limits and was encouraged to speak up for myself and other issues I care about. As an international student in the U.S., I met people with different backgrounds and cultures. After attending LeaderShape, I have realized that it is very valuable to share all my ideas, feelings, and doubts with other people, because it definitely helps me to reach my goals, my vision, and practice my passion more efficiently. More importantly, I have understood and committed to my personal values to lead with integrity, and gained better judgment on my decisions as a leader.

Hande Demirkiran
University of Texas–Arlington

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Through activities, handouts, and free time, I have learned the power of a support system, whether it is friends, family, teachers, or teammates. During the week, I had the opportunity to become close to a variety of people. While at LeaderShape I also learned about myself. I spent time discovering my passions and realizing what I can accomplish by acting on my passion to help others. It will be a week I will never forget and people who I hope to stay in contact with.

Amy Savaglia
St. Norbert College

I've learned to listen to other people more before jumping in with my own opinions. I've learned so much about active listening and how to deal with conflict. I definitely grew during my week at LeaderShape, maybe even changed. I realized that if I sit back and just listen, other people's ideas can change or shape my own.

Christina Philo
Elmhurst College

I have realized my personal potential as well as ways to get my vision into action. I feel more confident about myself and my leading abilities, as well as what I need to work on in order to be a better leader now on campus, and later in life. The facilitators were also a wonderful resource and made the experience an exceptional one. I would like to thank you for allowing me to take part in this wonderful opportunity! My life would not be the same without it. The personal connections, self realization, and visions for the future have helped me in more ways that I can explain in words. Thank you so much for taking the time to care about current and future leaders around the world.

Siraya Chew
St. Norbert College

I've realized that I have many great insights – I just need to share them with more people. I also became re-motivated to explore some of my passions and try to make my vision reality.

Alexis Dennis
University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill

I've learned countless things about myself, and my role as a leader, that I never would have realized had I not spent that incredible week in Illinois. 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. I will never forget the week I spent at LeaderShape. It truly was a life-changing experience.

Nicole Medsker
The Ohio State University

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I was extremely moved by the inspirational individuals I was blessed to share this wonderful experience with. Not only were the students full of hope and challenges for America, but the facilitators were as well. All of us were fortunate enough to share with them each of their aspirations. They all had a unique and touching way to show all of us how to lead with integrity and be what we want to become. I will forever remember this amazing experience, as it changed my life and my heart. LeaderShape gave the further desire to fulfill my vision. It was so touching to see all the hopes people have to better the lives of others and change the world. If only I could be surrounded by these people every day of my life and have them all putting into action what their hearts desire, what a world this would be! Each person that attends this life-changing experience is planting their own seed for a better change in some way.

Jenadee Nanini
Washington State University

I've realized that as a leader I function best as a harmonizer of the group and as an articulate, thoughtful contributor of ideas. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity!

Chelsea Scott
Emory University

I have come to realize that leading successfully does not simply mean accomplishing your goals, but doing so with integrity and staying true to your personal values.

Ashley Paro
Bucknell University

After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I've realized that I've learned many things about myself. Through an analysis of my leadership qualities, I've learned what style of leadership I personally employ. I found that I am sometimes a dominant leader (I tend to take over conversations), but through LeaderShape's various activities and team-building, I have learned how to never leave anyone out. I also learned that I sometimes tend to not put my full trust in my teammates because sometimes I feel like I can do it better, but LeaderShape helped me to understand that putting trust in your teammates is the only way to truly become a team. I feel like I not only became a better leader, but a better person.

Brandon VerVelde
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

During the six days I spent at LeaderShape, I learned the importance of self-disclosure and making myself vulnerable in building community; how to build on the strengths of the behavior styles of myself and others in my organization; and the importance of creating a challenging, vivid, and inclusive vision to inspire myself and others around me. I also had the time to form relationships with other student leaders who, like me, are committed to improving their organizations and campuses.

Ukeme Esiet
Assumption College

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I've learned that I can be a positive impact on my organizations and in my communities. The skills I learned at LeaderShape will help me become the person and leader I need and want to be to accomplish my goals.

Elise Tisdale
American University

I got on the bus heading to The LeaderShape Institute with no idea of what I was getting myself into. I got on the bus leaving with tears in my eyes. LeaderShape is no doubt the best experience of my life to date and I am so grateful that I had this opportunity. In those six days I discovered what I've been trying to figure out for the last twenty years. I learned so much about myself as well as the strangers I have gotten to know and love. I have made friendships with people from all different walks of life, from all over the world...I left Champaign with so much more than I could have ever imagined. The things I learned and the people I met at LeaderShape will forever have a place in my heart and there are not enough words to thank you.

Ashley Perisee
Saint Xavier University

I have recognized many valuable assets within myself that I would have not discovered without this opportunity. Several of the activities stayed with me once I left LeaderShape. As a group we all learned that it takes just one person to stand up and say something; however without the rest standing by your side supporting your decision, the goal or challenge could not be accomplished as easily. I discovered how well I interact with others and my influence in the workplace. In addition, one thing that I will always carry with me wherever I go is how to lead with integrity. It is very easy to forget your moral values and where you came from when things progress very quickly. I learned that people begin to focus on different priorities and forget the ones that propelled them to success in the first place. A good leader is one that never loses their integrity, even when things get overwhelming.

Evisa Frasheri
Widener University

I came to the United States two years ago from Kyrgyzstan (a former Soviet Republic). I was very active back in my country working for non-profit organizations and as a youth leader in my church. Moving to a different country made an impact on my self-esteem, preventing me from fully engaging in helping my community. Participating in The LeaderShape Institute helped me to open up to new people and boost my confidence. Through small group discussions, I learned a lot about myself and what I need to improve in order to be an effective leader and achieve my goals. Considering the many problems facing this country nowadays, such as the economic slowdown, increasing unemployment, and the breakdown in the educational system, it is very important that young people, such as me, prepare to face those difficulties so as to make a difference in society.

Elena Churikova
University of Illinois–Springfield

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I've learned a lot about myself and how to live and lead with integrity. Staying true to my morals, values, and beliefs will help me lead with integrity and allow others to follow. One person cannot do it all and needs a community behind him/her in order to effectively lead.

Brista Michael
Texas Women's University

It was an amazingly productive and shaping experience. LeaderShape is truly a worthy cause.

Zachary Parsons
University of Washington

I've learned to always enter a situation as a blank page and never cast out opinions based on misleading judgments and stereotypes.

Candice Boyd
Saint Xavier University

The program exceeded my expectations and was a truly remarkable experience. During the course of the week, I learned not only about myself, but I learned about others. Our passions, our dreams, and our unique "visions" all contributed in making incredible friendships; these friendships, I believe, will last long into the future. In a highly competitive and often hectic world, The LeaderShape Institute allowed me to hone my skills into being the most effective leader I can be. While it is true that today's leaders have to be driven, outspoken, and passionate, LeaderShape taught me that real accomplishments come only with the support and compassion of others. I also learned that tolerance, understanding, and communication with others is key for anyone in a leadership position. The world is truly "shrinking," and this is bringing extraordinary diversity not only to college campuses, but to the workplace as well. Tolerance, acceptance, and empathy are thus qualities that every leader should seek to maintain; after all, every human being has their own story to tell, and LeaderShape has taught me to open my ears. Living and leading with integrity were just two of several themes presented during the week. I believe I have learned from these the most. I have examined, or rather, re-examined, the beliefs and morals I hold true for myself. Living and leading consistently with these values is indeed a challenge, but it is crucial in effective leadership. Having others admire you for your character and contributions are traits that not only leaders should possess, but everyone in society. It should be made clear that the term "leader" is somewhat ambiguous, as we tend to think of leaders as someone who has "Director," "President," or "C.E.O." in front of their name. In reality, each individual, despite his or her economic, social, or cultural status, can be a leader. Titles only matter so much; what really matters is an individual's vision, goal, or dream, and how this can positively impact the people around them. LeaderShape has taught me this and so much more, and the relationships that were made during the course of just six short days have definitely impacted not only the way I see myself, but the way I see the world around me.

Steven Blalock
Old Dominion University

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I've learned about my actions in group work and my actions as an individual. In realizing where I stand and I changed that throughout the six days at The LeaderShape Institute. I also learned that everyone can be a leader no matter what circumstances they are in, everyone has to work together in order to make things right and presentable. As an individual I am fine socializing but when it comes to group work I am not social at all. My action for this was to step out of the closet and open up my ideas with my fellow group members and that is what I did for the rest of the week. This experience was a lot of fun. Everyone was really nice and I felt like I have been in this family for years instead of a few days. I made a lot of new friends quickly. Everyone was really nice and I felt as if I had known the participants and staff for years.

Raquel Anderson
Millersville University

LeaderShape has definitely changed my life in ways that I never thought would be possible. Not only were the facilitators empowering but they possessed a passion for what they do that is quite remarkable. It is these kinds of individuals that make a difference in the world today. Furthermore, the fifty-nine other participants impacted my life and it's comforting to know that in six days, I have made friendships that transcend time. Not only did we learn about leading with integrity but the most phenomenal aspect of LeaderShape was that it brought together sixty motivated, passionate young adults that would be the leaders of tomorrow. It is very reassuring to know that the future rests in our hands because together we can affect positive change in the world.

Lisa-Marie Young
Florida International University

I was given this once in a lifetime opportunity and have learned more about myself than I could have ever imagined. It was interesting to see the different types of leadership skills that everyone had and gain insight from each and every individual. Once again, I want to genuinely thank you. This opportunity was unlike any that I could have ever encountered.

Amanda Allegra
California State University – Northridge

The week I spent alongside inspiring fellow college students was inspiring, insightful, and most of all one of the best learning experiences for me ever! The LeaderShape Institute helped me realize so much about how to become a better influential leader but with integrity. During this week I learned that listening cannot be just a passive action, because to really listen you have to be an active and open minded to catch everything that someone is telling me about. My favorite aspect of LeaderShape though was learning that my dreams and aspirations may seem impossible and could be a little impossible, but that it is okay to strive for these goals because with others who believe within the mission like you, then it can become possible! My experience at LeaderShape truly inspired me and made my aspirations in life clearer!

Natalie Wetterauer
Eureka College

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While there, we spent our days thoroughly getting to know ourselves, and others, and testing our morals and ethics in different situations in order to better learn how to lead with integrity. The people at LeaderShape were what really made the experience a once in a lifetime opportunity. I not only made friends with students from all over the country, but also all over the world. While the teachers were absolutely amazing and they taught me so much, meeting and sharing with other students from so many different backgrounds made my learning experience that much more meaningful and beneficial. What I learned from them, in addition to the teachers, was priceless.

Kristan Provchy
East Tennessee State University

I've learned how to further develop my leadership style. Through learning about my leadership style, I have discovered my strengths and weaknesses as a leader as well as ways in which I can improve. This experience has been very insightful. Also meeting new people from around the world thus strengthening my network of contacts and creating new friendships, was amazing! All in all this was a challenging and informative week that taught me many things about myself and my leadership potential.

Samantha Gaier
College of Mount St. Joseph

I am so appreciative for the opportunity to attend LeaderShape. The experience was very enlightening and helped me understand more about myself, others, and learning styles.

Daniel Solomon
University of Miami

I can honestly say that even during this incredibly busy and transitional period in my life, my time could not have been better spent. It was so refreshing and eye opening living and working so closely with all of these individuals who have very limited to no knowledge of science and engineering "lifestyle." I believe it is often the case that scientists and engineers tend to lose focus on many other subjects and forget that there are individuals all around who have very different, yet equally effective methods of approaching and solving problems. I never expected this experience to be as rewarding as it was, and I certainly did not expect to make so many very close, intelligent, diverse, and supportive new friends after only a few days. I have no doubt (a term which I use very rarely) that my experience at a national session of The LeaderShape Institute will continue to benefit me in my personal and professional life for many years to come if not the rest of my life. Unfortunately, these forms of conferences and programs are often overlooked by those in the science and engineering fields, but their importance and utility can't be overstated. I am absolutely certain that it will have a huge positive impact on the rest of my life as well as the lives of the people in my session and those in sessions to come.

Adam Jakus
Georgia Institute of Technology

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