



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

(in 2010)

This past week at LeaderShape has shown me that leading with integrity is the key to making my vision of bettering medical treatment and availability for rural and underserved populations a reality. My time at The LeaderShape Institute has taught me to dream big and have a healthy disregard for the impossible by reaching out to others and build strong relationships. I have learned that good leaders need courage to step outside their comfort zones even if that means exposing their vulnerabilities. Although when I first arrived at The LeaderShape Institute I was nervous and did not know what to expect, by the end of the week, I left with incredible friends, unforgettable memories, and the lifelong skills to be an effective leader. I have grown from a passionate dreamer to a woman with the power, knowledge, and skills to truly change the world. I am LeaderShape, forever and always.

*Justine Falcone
Rollins College*

I am truly a better person and leader because of the skills I learned at LeaderShape. I know the friends and the knowledge I learned in one week will give me the confidence to achieve any goals I put my efforts into.

*Amber Holmes
Salt Lake Community College*

As a student leader since high school, I attended several leadership conferences but none were quite like LeaderShape. It was one of the most challenging and intense weeks of my life, but I came away with a much greater knowledge of myself, my peers, and how to lead with integrity. It gave me tremendous hope that my generation will be able to take on the challenges that face us in the near future. I would recommend LeaderShape to anyone, and I hope that it will keep inspiring student leaders for years to come!

*Thomas Nelson
McDaniel College*

I have never been to a program that is so inspiring and motivating. LeaderShape not only confirmed that how I was going about things was correct, but it showed me true support. I have never experienced such sincere support before.

Brittany Evans

A non-for-profit organization committed to developing young adults to lead with integrity.

Salt Lake Community College

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At LeaderShape, I found a group of individuals that bonded and became one voice. We listened, we learned, and we taught one another. Our passion for individual goals and dreams became a shared feeling, and inspired us in a snowballing effect until we were in a caring frenzy. It's hard to put into words how it felt to be around people who truly cared, and not just about themselves, but about others – people who had life goals that aimed for the benefit of others. What I appreciated most about LeaderShape was that it was truly different from other leadership seminars or organizations I have been a part of. Most leadership development programs seem to focus on teaching what a leader does, the qualities of a leader, and who a leader is, in a passive process. LeaderShape took an active approach in showing and allowing each of us to empower ourselves and each other to carry out our visions on a journey that will hopefully last beyond our lifetimes. That can often be our biggest challenge: to empower ourselves and each other to put into action those images every leader sees in their mind, and LeaderShape has helped me become more empowering. I think what I took most from LeaderShape is the whole conference was not even about me, but about all the others who I will affect every day after LeaderShape. Everything made sense, and I feel an obligation to do better in my life because others depend on it. I just keep thinking to myself that this isn't about me, and the whole time it had seemed as if it was. Now I realize my life isn't about me, it's about the next person who could be touched by my actions or inactions.

*Austin Evans
Southeast Missouri State University*

LeaderShape was an amazingly unique experience that gave me a fresh new perspective on leadership and the limitless capacity that we all have to change our own lives and the lives of those around us. In our lives we often get so caught up in being "realistic" that we rarely spend enough time dreaming of things that could be. LeaderShape taught me to defy the limits and envision worlds that many would call impossible and also showed me how to bring these dreams closer to reality. In the end, the most important lesson that LeaderShape strove to instill in us was that unless our actions as leaders properly align with our own beliefs and values we will be ineffective and our success will be limited.

*Cody Silva
Loyola Marymount University*

I don't believe I have ever had the honor to be in the company of so many intelligent and forward focused people (all at once) in my life. The content of LeaderShape inspired me greatly. It is as though you have given me 40 of the best human resources on earth to be my own personal network to support my loftiest visions. The LeaderShape Institute was intensive and we were all inspired to step out of our comfort zones and dare to share our visions and experiences. The support and overwhelming confidence these people have given me fosters a new level of strength and courage in my life. LeaderShape truly has been one of the greatest experiences in my life so far.

*Wendy Miles
Salt Lake Community College*

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The biggest lesson I learned at LeaderShape was that, if you can get past people's walls, every single individual is a good person who has something special to share with the world. I also learned that even though my leadership style is more subtle, involving coordinating everyone's thoughts so that no one feels unhappy, it can be just as effective as a more direct person. This experience changed my life.

*Sumner Gann
University of West Georgia*

I have attended many leadership conferences in the past but I must say this last week really hit me. This experience brought me to a new level of confidence and integrity not to mention productivity and responsibility. Until now I have sat idly by, unable to find solutions. My teachings at LeaderShape enabled me to make a plan that is aimed at fixing problems. At The LeaderShape Institute I was shown the concept of "If you have the capability, you have the responsibility." Well sir, I'm a very capable person as well as one of the most persistent guys you will ever meet. This, in combination with all the skills I obtained at The LeaderShape Institute, will serve as a powerful weapon to guide me as I fulfill my mission and my vision.

*Jimmy Flint-Smith
Lindenwood University*

I learned how to make a difference on my campus in a more focused and smarter way. I learned how to become a better leader, on an individual level, as well as identifying how I could become a better leader in group settings. I generated a lot of ideas from LeaderShape, in order to help my campus thrive. Due to the encouragement and amazing introspection I received at LeaderShape, I can carry out my vision and goals. The LeaderShape Institute has prompted me to live with one hundred percent integrity, all the time. Due to the remarkable experience at The LeaderShape Institute, I have become a better person and am very excited for the chance to serve the world better with my ideas. One person truly can make a difference.

*Christine Ware
University of Tennessee*

LeaderShape was an amazing, unforgettable experience that I can honestly say will greatly impact my life now and down the road when I have to make critically important decisions. The whole program was very well organized, fun, and insightful. I think more than anything else, LeaderShape taught me not only that we often look at life with tunnel vision and are unaware of how those around us perceive things, but that we can all truly achieve amazing ambitious goals for the benefit of everyone if we just hold true to our basic morals and values and persevere through what may be seen as a setback (when really it's a setup for a comeback).

*Andy Lutz
University of Texas-Austin*

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My experience at LeaderShape is one that I will never forget. I have never been pushed to think so big in my entire life. With going to school, being an active member of programs at my college, and volunteering in my community I never had time to just pause and think of how I could change the world. As I spent time at The LeaderShape Institute I was pushed to do exactly that, think big.

*Jessica Baron
Kankakee Community College*

If I could describe LeaderShape and my experience during the entire six days, these words come to mind: awe-inspiring, groundbreaking, and life changing. I feel as though my life has now transformed with the knowledge that I can use from this point on. Participating in LeaderShape has really shown me what kind of leader that I am and how others see me in this role as well. As a result, I have now become more confident in myself and my abilities in pursuing my vision – which will definitely affect the world in a positive manner. Never have I thought that I could make long-lasting friendships from knowing people just within six days. I am encouraged to empower others with all the knowledge that I've gained.

*Rachel Diane Frank
University of Washington-Tacoma*

Sometimes obstacles are all people see but LeaderShape taught me that I am surrounded by people who support me and my goals. I feel like LeaderShape has given me the strength to take that big step away from home and make my vision and my dreams come true.

*Resa Ware
Parkland College*

“When you are inspired by some great purpose, some extraordinary project, all your thoughts break their bonds: Your mind transcends limitations, your consciousness expands in every direction, and you find yourself in a new, great and wonderful world. Dormant forces, faculties and talents become alive, and you discover yourself to be a greater person by far than you ever dreamed yourself to be.” – Patanjali. This is the effect LeaderShape has had on my life. LeaderShape taught us that everyone has a leader embedded within them and the program was designed to shape that leader into a person with a high level of integrity. LeaderShape was designed to bring words such as: possibility, vision, relationships, action, integrity, community and positive change, a profound meaning to what it is to be a leader.

*Nabila Darville
College of the Bahamas*

I learned what I find most important in life. By discussing my core values and evaluating my personal leadership style, I feel that I have emerged both a better leader and person. Thank you again for the wonderful opportunity.

Sunita Yadavalli

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College of New Jersey

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At LeaderShape, I was able to dig deep and find out what type of individual I really am. I had some sense of my personality type, but I gained more clarification. It was very interesting working with other individuals who shared my personality type. I was able to witness that the majority of our thoughts were similar. All the information I received at The LeaderShape Institute was very beneficial to me. I have begun to apply the information to my daily life and have the will to do the same on my campus.

*Amia Warren
Southeast Missouri State University*

LeaderShape was a life-changing experience. I gained insight into the backgrounds, experiences, and obstacles other students have had to overcome. It was interesting to see how everything in the past directly contributed to how they are as a leader and person. I gained further knowledge on my strengths and weakness, as well as how to work in a group full of strong personalities. This experience made me grow as an individual, and as a leader. This experience also gave me memories and friends that will last a lifetime.

*Silvino Villanueva
Arizona State University*

My whole experience has been way more inspiring and fun than I had ever dreamed it would be. Because of my attendance at LeaderShape, I have formed a new network of friends and allies and I feel re-invigorated in my desires to change the world.

*Megan Hamilton
University of Florida*

I had the most amazing week of my life while connecting with other college students who have similar views and goals, and learning about leading with integrity to bring vision to life. I have learned the importance of perspective. It's important to sometimes step back from a situation and take the time to consider all options, how they would affect other people, and how I would view someone else if they were to make a similar decision. Again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity. It was definitely a week I will never forget.

*Heather Twomey
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

The week was absolutely amazing and I got advice and inspiration and met other intriguing people with visions for the future. It was a true testament to the capacity of the human spirit to dream a better tomorrow.

*Kensie Smith
Drake University*

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I couldn't have enjoyed it more. I tried out a completely new way to live at LeaderShape and I felt secure in doing so. It felt good. I finally articulated my own visions for the world and I created the most comprehensive list of who I am. I met college students mostly from around the Midwest – many who came from schools I didn't know existed! – and I opened my eyes even further to the world of possibility. I live with, as my good friend says, three e's: energy, enthusiasm, and empathy and I heard that was inspiring to others. I envision a world where everyone understands each other on a deep and fundamental level. Because of LeaderShape, I put into words and into action the thoughts I have been thinking for years.

*Tyler Benjamin
University of Florida*

After attending The LeaderShape Institute, I learned that my passion can be inspiring. I have never thought of myself as a passionate or positive person, but I am now rethinking that!

*Kathleen Clifton
College of Mount St. Joseph*

LeaderShape was nothing short of transformational. Even after studying leadership for three years at the University of Denver, the perspective presented by LeaderShape on the visioning process and living with integrity was completely new and fresh insight to me. I was most impacted by the considerable time we invested in a discussion on personal character: simply learning to articulate my core values and their importance in my life has helped me grow exponentially as a person and as a leader. I am beginning to truly know myself and the traits I hold dear, I know I will be able to become a much more effective leader in our society and, perhaps, one day throughout the world. LeaderShape literally transformed my life!

*Alyssa Yong
University of Denver*

I wanted to attend LeaderShape because I hoped to take away a few good things that I could apply to the Marines in the upcoming years. The program served me well. I learned a great deal, but most importantly, I re-learned what it means to lead with integrity. As a college student, I sometimes don't necessarily make decisions based on my morals. This week at LeaderShape helped me realize this. I know I'll be able to make better decisions in the future.

*Rudy Mistovich
University of Michigan*

I learned a lot about myself such as the specific style (well styles) of leadership that I exemplify. I also discovered how my multiple passions could be woven together to create a vision that I will enjoy striving to accomplish. I truly learned a tremendous amount of valuable lessons and information.

Taylor Glymph

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Duke University

Before attending The LeaderShape Institute, I was never confident enough to consider myself having leadership qualities. In just the short six day experience, I learned so much about myself and my responsibilities and about the world. There were so many things that I ignored before that were brought up at LeaderShape, like leadership qualities and perspectives on life. In the past, I really didn't pay much attention to the power of vision. I always thought that it was some kind of naïve game for kids. Now I know how important it can be to change my life, to guide my behavior and to be a permanent motivator for me. I really wish everybody could have the same luck as I did in being able to attend LeaderShape and spend time imagining how nice the world could be if everybody was living with integrity. It was my first time feeling true support from people with different backgrounds, while sharing the same passion for the world. It was my first time experiencing real friendship that could cross time and distance and that could be so sincere and open hearted.

*Guanyi Yang
Ohio Wesleyan University*

More than anything else, my experience at LeaderShape has served to renew my confidence and has helped me grow as both a person and a leader. I have never bonded with so many people so quickly. The friends I made, I will never forget. I have been to conferences on leadership in the past, and I can tell you that no other experience has been as impactful and life changing insofar as personal development is concerned.

*Brittany Coleman
Duke University*

Over the years, my college has sent numerous participants to LeaderShape. They have all returned saying it was "life changing." I found it hard to believe that a six-day program could be considered life changing, but now that I have experienced the program, "life changing" is a good way to describe it. LeaderShape is the type of experience that will better gear our youth to deal with diverse problems. Our session exposed participants to people, ideas, and situations they never thought they would encounter. I have learned so much in such a short period of time, and I want to assure you that I will not let it go to waste.

*Mohammad Husain Bawany
St. John Fisher College*

The LeaderShape Institute has allowed me to gain a new self-understanding, explore the importance of integrity and discover how essential vision is for any/all leaders. One of the most unique aspects of this experience was that we were able to live in a community of integrity for a week's time. Seeing the positive effects and effectiveness of integrity, I am now able to reinforce my commitment to integrity and have a visual end product to strive for. I look forward to evoking positive change in each community and organization I am part of by

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sharing my passion and striving for vision. Without LeaderShape, I would still likely not understand the importance of vision or have the know-how to execute my personal vision.

*Mike Carter
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

I have learned that I am a person who is truly passionate about inspiring others to make a difference in the world. I also learned the importance of being true to myself and leading with integrity. I learned how I behave as a leader and what I need to work on to include everyone. Overall, my experience at LeaderShape was life changing in how I will grow as an individual and a leader. I am now motivated more than ever to make my vision a reality and further a life led with integrity and purpose. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity that changed my life for the better and provided me with the tools and experience to impact others' lives in a positive, meaningful way.

*Sean Snyder
Albright College*

While interested and excited going into LeaderShape, I will admit I was at first skeptical. It was not long, however, until I began to trust in the program and give myself fully to its purpose. As the week rolled on I learned more about leadership, integrity, and myself than I ever would have thought possible from a quick six days of workshops and a mansion full of strangers (who quickly became close and trusted friends). The experiences I had and the friendships I made were numerous, and I am confident none will be forgotten soon. I truly wish that everyone had the opportunity to experience LeaderShape, and I feel incredibly honored to be one of those lucky individuals who attended. I can guarantee I am not alone in saying that LeaderShape is a remarkable and even life changing experience.

*Cadence Peckham
Lawrence University*

The whole event-filled week was an amazing experience for which I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity of attending. From this experience I learned one person can change the world, but only with the help of others.

*Sarah Harrington
Rollins College*

Coming into the week, I wasn't quite sure what to expect but what I left with was something beyond incredible. This week wasn't just about discovering how to be a good leader but about discovering a vision, my vision, and the visions of everyone there. Walking around the room seeing how everyone wishes the world would be and how they are going to create that world was remarkable. It made me put my faith and trust back in people. Even though we are all very different in where we come from, what we believe in, and what our experiences in life have been, I know that we all have a common goal which is to make this world a better place.

Holly Ziegler

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Illinois College

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I've learned how much my choices truly affect my actions. Having the opportunity to share things about myself in a safe environment helped me to work on improving my weaknesses and reinforcing my strengths. I was able to learn how to best handle interactions between different learning styles and experiment using characteristics from learning styles that differ from my own. This will be an experience that will stay with me for the rest of life.

*Norma Barington
Texas Women's University*

The LeaderShape Institute was the most insightful week of my life. The week was full of realizations about me and ways to make myself a better person and leader. I know that this week has and will continue to positively change my life. The love and support that I felt from others at LeaderShape is indescribable. I am forever changed.

*Ashley Majors
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

An incredibly rigorous schedule of packed days kept the entire community going with the same focus of shaping us as leaders in a myriad colors, using both group and individual dynamics. I learned things not only about myself, but other student leaders throughout the country – which was not only enlightening but also encouraging. It was really exciting to talk about what we really care about, and hear the way that each person talked of how they would like to see it in reality, in implementation. A friend I made at the session mentioned that what made a good leader was not having a lot of information, being courageous, of much strength, or anything else that usually gets associated with a “leader” – but rather, the fact of whether they simply care or not. LeaderShape in many ways, felt like Kindergarten perfected. I definitely got more than I bargained for by attending. Didn't expect to make so many wonderful friends and meet people with such large hearts. Didn't expect my faith in the goodness of humanity restored. Didn't expect to become so raw-ly aware of myself with all my strengths and weaknesses. Didn't expect to encounter such love and foster such life with a bunch of strangers between Day 1 and Day 6. Didn't expect to really learn and figure out the things I'd set out for (timing/pacing). Didn't really expect for every single participant to be fantastic. Didn't expect to make connections with those from cities I really miss, home city greater Boston in particular. Didn't expect my world to get so much smaller by the six degrees in relationships with those at LeaderShape. Didn't expect LeaderShape to be what it was.

*Ellice Park
Maryland Institute College of Art*

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