



Leadership Portfolio

*My Leadership. My Story.*

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**Philosophy Statement**

Leadership resides within each individual. It is a unique trademark we each possess, and with every persons individualized leadership ideals the completion of goals will be innovative and prosperous. When one finds themselves able to tap into their deepest desires, choosing to help guide other towards a goal through small helpful acts, or being the well-known name and voice ultimately it all depends on the person and situation.

I often observe others that I feel demonstrate leadership abilities that appeal to me. I then morph these acts to be more personalized. Through others I learn, gain methods and knowledge, and then create my individualized leadership style. I watch my teachers, fellow peers, family members, strangers waiting in line, and high ranking officials. When I am conscious of others behavior, the way they carry themselves whether it be through waiting to cross the street, or speaking to large audiences I find certain aspects that I would like to portray. I then mimic their motions which helps me grow as a person and as a leader. Without growth and adaptation leadership styles would become static, and maturation and development are essential.

I would like to be seen as a down to earth, approachable, relatable individual who genuinely cares about others well being and successes. Through being conscious of others aspirations I would be able to lead more efficiently, respectfully, and have a better grasp and understanding of how best to assist. I want to be seen as open to suggestions, constantly learning from others. I value humility in leaders, knowing how and when to ask for help is such an honorable characteristic to have. I think knowing what type of leader you do not want to be is just as important as knowing what type of leader you want to be. I despise leaders who are arrogant, closed off to new suggestions, or are just in it for the recognition. Being this way does not benefit anyone, it more or less makes people feel disconnected and as though their opinions do not matter. Too often leaders think they control the people, when in reality the people control the leaders. Control in the sense where they speak on behalf of the peoples needs and wants, the power is given by the majority of people and sometimes it is not appreciated. I hope to be far better than this example, especially because I value integrity so highly I would be dissatisfied with myself if I were to carry myself and my ideals in this light.

I am a leader that accepts the limelight when its thrust upon me or required, however I prefer to lead from the background. I religiously abide by the phrase, “Let success be your noise.” It is of utmost importance to stay grounded. More often than not I have witnessed leaders in highly regarded positions get “a big head” and an ego. I want to be a helpful, unstereotypical leader, that people trust and feel they can come to with any issue. For a long time I did not consider myself a leader because I was not the president of a club, the head of a large business firm, or a name everyone recognized. It has taken a long time, and I am still working on accepting the fact that I am a leader. I help guide others with a helping hand and small gestures that make a bigger impact than I am ever conscious of. I am a leader. I work in the background helping to positively impact peoples lives.

**Leadership Influences**

My ultimate bliss would be to positively impact several peoples lives through giving advice, providing the means of motivation, or inspiration. When guidance, assurance, and/or leadership is needed I hope to be that helpful individual to push this person or group towards their goals. Personally, my true goal in life is to help, protect, and serve my country and its citizens. Leadership will be such a large part of my life in a plethora of aspects, especially with the career path that I am seeking. It is hard to give a definitive answer for what I hope to accomplish because these thoughts and wants are evolving and changing constantly. I just hope that with whatever I chose to do and am able to accomplish I do it to the best of my abilities, with a clear head, and open mind, and they are all things that parallel my interests and assist others in the accomplishments of their goals.

I would like to think that I am a positive resource for others. I am someone willing to constantly adapt to new situations, open to hearing new ideas, and my personal motivation for wanting others to want to succeed will then lead to the completion of goals. I am aware that certain leadership styles can impact others in a negative aspect, and I have witnessed this several times. Being conscious of these downfalls and possibilities keeps me consciously aware of the outcomes, and I am set on impacting others solely in the best ways possible. This does not mean that the outcome will always be perfect, and there will be bumps and setbacks along the way, but the journey will be a positive one that will be reflected back upon favorably. The fascinating thing about leadership is that every single persons influences and skills are different. This fact will impact my style, which will in change impact others. Constantly experiencing new things and having my eyes opened to different walks of live, personalities, and culture will hopefully help my leadership impact others in the best ways possible.

In order for people to be considered major influences in my life in regard to leadership is something I hold highly. Firstly, George Washington is a man who exhibited true leadership qualities, not only as the first president of the United States, but also as a respectable human being. When Mr. Washington was given all of the power, when greed was at his fingertips and taking advantage of things would have been easy, he exhibited tremendous personal integrity and strength. He led the country in a positive direction, and was able to stay true to his characteristics of selflessness and respect of the majority. Next, is the first professor at Pace University who took me under her wing and made me feel as though I could do great things. Professor Joan Katen has demonstrated leadership in the classroom, by providing guidance and advice for me as well as other students when struggles and conflicts arose. She provided me with once in a lifetime opportunities which helped to open my eyes towards the world and all it had to offer. Her leadership was similar to the way I would like to do things, through small acts of kindness and the want to see me achieve great things and succeed she used her resources to push me towards my goals. Last but not least, my sister, someone who inspires me daily, remains at my side through all of the challenges life throws my way, she is a supporting voice of concern and the strongest encouragement I have. Megan is a woman that I aspire to be like. Her leadership abilities combined with her generous and genuine personality make for a beautiful human being. Her authenticity, wisdom and ability to stand up in a crowd, voice her opinion even if she is the only one on the other side demonstrates her personal strength and ability to lead when opinions are not popular. She embraces failure and turns it into a life lesson and in turn learns from it. Megan has the ability to make each person feel valued and important, and most importantly is approachable. My leadership influences are few, but they resonate so deeply with me and help set examples for the way that I hope to carry out my leadership skills towards others and be perceived. All three of these individuals inspire me in such unique ways, each one different from the next but they all share certain characteristics in common. The most important one is that regardless of how they lead people towards their goals they do it with passion, respect, and have their best interest at heart.



**Values**

**Integrity** is the value I regard most highly in my mind. With every decision I make, each event I attend, and every conversation I have with others I hold myself to the highest levels of integrity. It is extremely important for me to be viewed by others as a respectable woman that is trustworthy and loyal. The definition of integrity is, “the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; the state of being whole and undivided.” Integrity is one of the hardest values to uphold, but it is an essential component to who I am and all that I strive to be in life. Overall, it is a personal set of morals standards that I hold myself to in order to stay aligned with my goals, wants, and needs in all aspects. There were a few times in high school and several in college where peer pressure would have been easy to give into, it almost got the best of me, but through my values, want to achieve and succeed, integrity helped me persevere and remain true to myself and my moral standards. Improvement of integrity is constant, ever changing, and always evolving. Through each new opportunity or set back my integrity literacy is growing. The best way to learn more about this value is to watch others who hold this value to a similar standard, in a way mimic some of their actions, and this in change will continue to increase my understanding.

**Diverse perspectives** are such an essential part of my life. With each new person and new story I am able to hear I thrive off of that. Growing up in a rural location, with sameness reigning, coming to college has opened my eyes in all different aspects. I now consider myself culturally literate, or more so than before I came to college. I have met so many different personalities, and been exposed to different peoples heritages. I feel more understanding, appreciative, and accepting. Diversity is such an intriguing thing, and I found a definition that I felt did it justice. “Tolerance of thought, ideas, people with differing viewpoints, backgrounds, and life experiences.” At college, both in the classroom and in my social life diversity is everywhere. I take advantage of the opportunity to talk to others, to learn, educate myself, appreciate them and their culture. I think the only way one can improve this value is through traveling to different locations, being open minded, and talk to a multitude of individuals from a variety of cultures and areas.

**Courage** is not always easy, it’s frightening, but it’s an essential component for a person to obtain. To demonstrate strength in the face of anguish is true courage. I hope to demonstrate true courage several times throughout my lifetime. Watching videos from people during the September 11 attacks, seeing people risk there lives in order to save another during a shooting or some violent action, or being courageous enough to go first for something, all of these motivate me to be a better person. Courage does not always need to make you seem heroic, it does not need to give you an adrenaline rush, or stand out in the crowd, it is simply an act that you partake in that sets you out of your comfort zone. I have never demonstrated true courage, I hope to someday but thus far I have not. Small acts of courage however, I think everyone has done this at some point in their lives. Courage does not have to align with the acts of Rosa Parks or military personnel, it could be asking someone out on a date, leaving an abusive relationship, or standing up for yourself. The only way to truly improve courage is to consistently be more courageous. My goal for each semester is to try something that puts me out of my element. To leave my comfort zone, feel vulnerable, and take that courageous leap towards something, you may fail, but you may fly. It is this hope of prospering that makes courage so desirable. Learning more about courage is a challenging concept, because you don’t technically learn it, you just do it. Watching others is always a helping tip, but I think courage is such a personal value that it cannot really be taught it must come from within. Certain things can help it arise, but you must be willing to walk on a tree limb in order to rescue the cat so to speak.





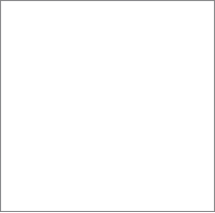
**Passion**

My influences are my interests which in turn form my passions. What I choose to do in my free time, and the career path I would like to pursue are informed by my values. My passion above all else is patriotism. I want to serve my country and protect American citizens in all aspects. I would like to serve tours over seas, as well as be a counterterrorism analyst that helps evaluate and preempt threats before the United States civilians know they were ever in danger. My main focus lies in the Middle Eastern region. Most of the Near East countries are volatile and unpredictable, so I feel that I can make a real difference in helping to combat terrorism. Being the type of leader that I am, one that prefers to lead from the background, and does not need recognition to understand that I am doing a good job. With that said, it will make the career path I’m choosing an easier one because I am comfortable letting success be my noise, rather than a newspaper article with my name plastered on the front. My values have grown, morphed evolved and strengthened due to events that have occurred throughout my lifetime.

My values have positively attributed in the creation of my philosophy. I feel that my leadership philosophy is a well-rounded, easily relatable, and genuine piece of work that others can look to for guidance, or a deeper understanding of who I am as a person. An anonymous individual said, “Let your passion be the reason for your existence, and your successes the product of your persistence.” If my values contribute one thing to my leadership philosophy, I hope it is able to convey that being passionate about something, whether it is a popular ideal or not, staying true to your beliefs and persevering will make you a content individual and an even better leader. Patriotism is my deepest passion. By definition it is, “devoted love, support, and defense of one's country; national loyalty.” My values, my leadership philosophy, every decision I make whether it be school related or in my social life, upholds my values and keeps me remaining true to myself and my ultimate goals.

As a Political Science major my passion for leadership is shown in debates, intellectually stimulating conversations on worldly controversial topics, and through politics. I am constantly shown world leaders, or highly placed individuals in government, and I am able to see the pros and cons of people in power and leadership positions. If you ask most political science majors, they will enjoy voicing their opinions and being front and center. I am a rare breed, because I would rather sit in the back and hear both sides of an argument, form my own views, and then find a diplomatic approach to conflicts. My leadership philosophy states, “choosing to help guide others towards a goal through small helpful acts” which demonstrates my way of leading which parallels the phrase “be seen but not heard.” It’s important for people to see you actively participating, or demonstrating engaged listening, but always being heard is not necessary. Moreover, my passion for leadership shows itself in a plethora of different aspects.

I am motivated to help others achieve their goals. By helping to positively impact society and change certain stereotypes, stigmas, and limitations that hinder others ability to achieve their goals. By giving them the means to achieve what they desire through active and constructive leadership will help to create change. As a leader knowing your place is essential. The proper time to stand up and make your voice heard versus stepping back and listening is a crucial component. If I can do one thing through leadership it would be to teach others that leadership is not always about being heard and being seen. It is the small things done on the sidelines, the brave acts of courage no one sees, and sometimes more leadership is carried out when recognition is not involved. It is nice to be a leader that stands in front of a camera, is known by everyone, but that is unrealistic. Yet, this fact should not discourage us, as human beings who wish to lead others, from being a leader regardless of how much we consider ourselves to be one or not.



**Personal Development Plan**

Each semester my goal at Pace University is to do one thing that puts me out of my comfort zone, and challenges me to grow. In college they always say that it is about finding yourself, seeing how far you can push your boundaries, and taking advantage of all of the opportunities, and this is exactly what I intend to do. During my first semester at Pace I was a member of the Setters Leadership and Service House (SLH) organization, I took the train by myself to the city for the first time and attended an event at the Harvard Club, and I participated in many of the events hosted on campus both in and outside of my dormitory. This semester at Pace I continued SLH and volunteering two hours per week at the Lab School assisting young adults with social and vocational disabilities. I am currently mentoring a lab student who is taking the same Geology class as me. I attended an event hosted by Residential Life honoring my academic achievements. I know this may not sound like something that puts me outside of my comfort zone, but it really was. Attending events on campus where I do not know exactly how things are going to proceed, knowing the evenings events precisely, and having my mother and a professor there on my behalf was nerve wracking. Also, this semester I went and interviewed with Congressman Nita Lowey, which was a wonderful opportunity and forced me to be professional, aware of my surroundings, prompt, and educated. It was challenging, but I gained a lot of experience and confidence through it. Next semester I hope to either study abroad or become a peer leader. I plan one excelling academically, continue forming relationships with professors and staff members, socially forming bonds and making memories as well as keeping up personal fitness, my morals, and staying in touch with my family back home.

The future is based on what you do in the present, how you react to situations, and opportunities that you throw yourself into. My future will be prosperous and joy-filled if I keep improving and do not allow myself to plateau or become content with what is. I thrive off of new experiences, so it is essential that I continue engaging in them.

I am currently actively involved with SLH. This semester I have also gone for an interview outside of school, I attend campus events, also events hosted by my dormitories Resident Assistant’s, and I volunteer at the Pace Lab School. I recognize that currently I may not be involved in a variety of organizations, but that is my project for next semester. I would like to join Model UN and the Political Science organization that was created this semester. I would also like to see if I could do research with a professor based on terrorism in the middle east.

In my mind, being a successful student on a college campus does not solely mean that you excel academically, but you put yourself out there in all aspects and become a well rounded happy individual. College is all about growth and figuring out your likes from your dislikes. If you do not participate in events and get a taste for organizations your college experience will be much less profound and helpful. I can continue to be an actively engaged and participatory student. Right now it is challenging for me to be very involved because my classes are more challenging then I originally anticipated as well as being time consuming. I recognize that this is no excuse, but I am trying to manage a lot of different things, as well as my home life, social life, and at times it can become overwhelming.

I think that my experiences thus far at Pace University have exceeded my initial thoughts. I feel that the only thing missing from my experience is more experiences. With each new opportunity I am involved with I learn and grow as individual. It is unfathomable to look back at the beginning of my first semester to where I am now, I feel like a completely different person in the best way possible. Through each experience I am able to network, meet new personalities, hear stories that motivate and teach me, and I am forced to adapt to new situations which keeps my mind from getting content. I hope to study abroad, continue participating in Pace Makes A Difference Day for my next three years here, do alternative Spring Break with CCAR, become a peer leader, have an internship, and many other things. I cannot name very specific experiences I would like for the future but I can give a general idea, and I can say I hope that there will be a lot of experiences for me in the future.

I do not wish to say that I have missing pieces in my personal development plan because that is exactly what it is, development. If we began with everything why work towards anything? I feel that currently I am exactly where I am supposed to be, and I am looking forward towards improving areas where I wish to gain more knowledge and experiences. Success arises through hard work, self motivation and dedication, as well as the want to achieve more and having the mindset that you will need to leave your comfort zone in order to accomplish your deepest desires. Being uncomfortable is something no one truly enjoys, but it is an essential aspect when trying to be successful. Success is not a smooth ride, it is the obstacles one must face that make the journey and the ultimate achievements worth it.