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The LeaderShape Institute Experience

University Honors Program

February 5, 2015

Finding a Vision

Throughout high school and even in my first semester of college, I’ve been to many different forms of leadership workshops, conferences, and even week long camps. And through them I’ve been able to learn a great deal about leadership and develop some skills and qualities that I’ve been able to use. But one thing that these leadership “events” didn’t really touch on was personal values and their effect on your vision, until I went to LeaderShape. I’ve definitely learned about the importance of core values before, but I’ve always thought about it more in the context of morals and self-reflection. What I haven’t thought of before LeaderShape is the impact of values on my life goals and vision for my future.

So in addition to learning about leadership skills, LeaderShape taught me about myself and how who I am or who I want to be should reflect onto what my vision or my future is. Some of my core values that I focused on were kindness, purpose, and good will (and of course fun, because I don’t want to be bored). I decided on these values because I want to do something that involves helping people and giving back to others while being able to smile and have interactions with different people. From here, I was led to the vision of being an emergency room physician.

I never thought that I would go to a leadership retreat to find my plan for the future. And as you can see from my headline, my stretch goal is to start a hospital in Libya with more expansive services to help people who wouldn’t otherwise get it. I know that this is a difficult goal to achieve but as long as I work towards helping as many individuals as possible I’ll feel like I’ve succeeded. I have met Dr. Bankston from the Nursing school about health equity and using that connection could help me in my future goals. LeaderShape surprised me, I thought I was going to get basic leadership training but I ended up finding out what I cared about and what I want to do for the rest of my life.