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ALC 309

Professor Schroer

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Personal Leadership Assessment

Introduction

Before starting my final semester at the University of Arizona, I enrolled in ALC 309, “Leadership Principles and Practices”, which I carefully picked out last year to be a part of my thematic minor coursework. The combination of leadership articles, guest presenters, and books appealed to a wide range of students by motivating all of us to look within on how to develop as an effective leader. One of the valuable lessons I got from this course was to stop berating myself for my differences because it doesn’t make me less competent it makes me stand out. The positive influences in my personal life and distinguished figures in society took pride in their unique approach to the world and I would like to do the same because that path will present different results and new opportunities. Believing I can positively shape my life and career through my everyday actions, I went forth with writing my mission statement; Your potential expands-as your confidence, charisma, and courage shines through.

Academics

This semester, I decided to take on a more flexible job to dedicate my time towards school and focus more on having an improved work, school and life and balance. I think it’s more important than ever to learn how to prioritize maintaining my interpersonal connections and not naturally withdrawing when I’m overwhelmed. My current academic plans I wish to accomplish at the University of Arizona is to complete my final semester and graduate in

December 2022 with my Bachelor of Arts degree. I am excited to obtain my double-major in Communication and Information Science & E-Society with a thematic minor. As Kristin Hedlund emphasized in our first lecture, we shouldn't fixate on our failures and celebrate our successes. To push myself out of my comfort zone and not be too humble, I will admit I am proud of myself for what I accomplished in my academics, ever since I was a child I had to work twice as hard than my peers to achieve with my learning disability. As I used to before, I no longer allow those circumstances to control me and at this point in my life it hasn't been a challenge that I feel has pushed me to shy away from seizing academic and career opportunities. Post-graduation, I am open to pursuing various types of opportunities such as fellowships, internships, or contract work to gain exposure while seeking full-time employment where I can grow and develop at the company.

Leadership

Reading *7 Things if You want to Become a Leader*, I redefined in my own life what it means to set a higher standard for myself; Setting a higher standard for myself means being confident with what I can deliver and believe that I can be a great asset to any team I am a part of in my professional career. One of our guest speakers, Spencer Izor, touched on something that struck a chord with me when she went into the negative nature of imposter syndrome. After she spoke, I realized that I identified myself with a type of imposter syndrome called the expert. Unconsciously, I have frequently measured my own competence based on my current knowledge and what I am qualified to do now. Diving deeper, I concluded that I need to work on letting go of my fear of appearing inexperienced and avoid setting impossibly high expectations for myself. Sanborn's book, *You Don't Need a Title to be a Leader*, cultivated the idea that there are different types of leaders that can be successful once they harness their strengths and must desire

to develop. As I originally said, how I will develop in my weakest area is by prioritizing my well-being more. I must realign my focal points by integrating mindfulness, fitness, and meditation in my daily routine to prevent burnout and possibility of drifting. In addition, I will apply new strategies to avoid “reverse prioritization,” to accomplish breaking up big tasks into smaller to dos. I want to learn more about understanding the differentiation between accomplishing short-term and long-term goals. I plan to become a better leader in the future by confidently seeing myself for who I really am, a potential charismatic leader, somebody who has the heart and soul to inspire others to be their absolute best.

Career Planning

In ten years, I hope I am a Creative Director at a respectable company in the Arts & Entertainment career field. However, ever since my internship experience and participation in networking seminars, I have considered the potential possibilities of other creative job opportunities such as travel PR and creative development. My plan towards success and for my career is always finding ways to introduce myself to new concepts and ideas as Sanborn suggested. What can I say, knowledge is power. In addition, my mentor and former internship supervisor always preached how essential it is to take initiative especially when it comes down to networking. During the semester, one of the things I would like to focus on is reaching out to people in my desired career field to meet and get their career input via Zoom or in-person. Last fall, I accepted my first internship offer at a digital consulting agency called Twenty-One North in Scottsdale as an unpaid public relations intern. It was exciting how I got to work one-on-one with the co-founder and my internship supervisor, as well as the PR and Digital teams learning the ins and outs of all client campaigns. Those couple months, participating in daily morning team meetings and sitting in on client meetings demonstrated the level of professionalism the

company employed in crisis management, persuasion, and effective communication. Twenty-One North's internship program gave me a wonderful opportunity to utilize skills learned in my classes, build a network, and get a jumpstart on my career. This part-time internship provided me the hands-on experience to develop strategies from start to finish for Twenty-One North's current clients, which I enjoyed seeing each client's growth throughout the duration of my internship. Reflecting, I realized I applied to hundreds of internships for months last year with no previous internship experience before, but I remained patient and knew somebody would see my potential. Thus, always channel your passion and be enthusiastic because in due time, it will lead you to wonderful opportunities. This experience helped solidify what I want in my career and how to develop professionally to get closer to my niche. When you finally have complete faith in yourself, you will welcome what you truly want in your life. Although, I applied to dozens of internships this summer and didn't receive an acceptance letter, I did have a couple agencies reach out and interview me. I didn't see the progress and how the year before I only received one interview request and acceptance and the tide changed. My best efforts and recognition even with no outstanding outcome, I should still be proud of the moments and progress what I believe will lead to my game-changing yes.

Relationships

Truthfully, I already have a dependable and loyal support system among my friends and family. Throughout my life, I have always been genuinely concerned about others and placed importance with instilling trust, to pave the foundation in my connections for my loved ones to seek advice or vent when need be. However, I would like to improve on learning to be more vulnerable and comfortable expressing my emotions when I'm with my friends. I think it comes from being skeptical of exposing my vulnerabilities to others, but I think not letting

others in will only cause toxic emotional buildup. It's become rather clear that just masking any negative emotions I feel with my interpersonal connections will not only intensify them but can just create bigger problems in our relationships. I plan to develop my existing and future relationships by taking small steps to expand my comfort zone by sharing small things slowly. If I don't open myself up more like my friends do the relationships will more than likely remain stagnant and won't grow. Being more vulnerable can be scary but the likelihood to build deeper bonds will bring me more fulfillment in life.

Closing Thoughts

As somebody who describes herself to be empathetic and caring, I have always been inspired by quotes from charismatic leaders and inspirational speakers. Honestly, it's hard to narrow down positive influences like Tony Robbins, Mahatma Gandhi, and Oprah Winfrey. Possibly, the reason I have been equally touched by the words of wisdom these leaders have shared is due to their direct tone and their exhibition of spiritual toughness. If I had to choose a quote that always sets the tone for what I will do next is when Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." I strive to be a true example of tenacity, perseverance, and determination. My life will be filled with love, prosperity, and adventures, I guarantee it.