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INTD-100

Professor Hanson

Leadership Experience Essay

At my high school there is a marine biology and engineering program called Poseidon Academy, and thankfully I had the privilege of being a part of it. It is known across the country for its production of hard working and successful students. It is a four year program that requires acceptance due to a large interest, and minimal space. Most students in the academy turn out to be leaders in the community and school in their own unique ways; whether it be playing multiple sports, being in several clubs, or participating in an excess of community service. Poseidon has an outstanding group of founding teachers and energetic younger ones, they all want the best for the students and want to prepare them for the real world. Going into this program my freshman year I would already consider myself a leader, but Poseidon pushed me to the next level of what I could be. I not only found what I believe to be my calling but I also found peace in being Zack Duhala instead of someone else.

Coming into my freshman year I was in my first Poseidon Class with Mr Olmos one of the two founders of The Academy. He and Mr Ashley had created it in the mid 90s due to the fact that so many kids from our beach town were interested in the marine environment. Having Mr Olmos for the first two years of high school was very difficult, because his goal was to push you to your limits to show you how great you can really be. My sophomore year I met my engineering teacher Mrs Hill who had been with

poseidon for about two years. From the very beginning she became one of my favorite teachers, as she was always working for new ways to improve her teachings, our materials, and curriculum. She started a robotics team for my highschool as well as always making sure we were doing alright in school and at home. She was also constantly applying for news funds and grants for the program so we would have top end tools and computers to use in our class. Having her as a teacher for three years benefitted not only my own but every Poseidon students' experience in high school. Junior year Mr Ashley was our Chemistry teacher, he was by far the most influential teacher i've ever had. He had a teaching method that made you so eager to go to his class. He was truly the most genuine and friendly person you could meet. The science portion of classes ended after junior year of Poseidon, but I had the opportunity to take AP Environmental Science with Mr Ashley and I'm very thankful I did. During the time after my knee surgery I became very depressed because I thought I'd never be able to play football again, but my Poseidon teachers helped me come to fruition that I'm capable of anything and the only limitations that will stop me are the ones I put on myself.

These events were not a leadership experience but a journey to true leadership. I've always been a hard worker but never had I known what I was working towards, and my mentors helped me find my path to find what I truly want.