

Leadership Paper
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Leadership is one of the most sought-after qualities people look for these days. Whether that be as a new friend, significant other, or new employee, leadership is what people love to see. The bar for leadership, looking on the inside and out, is very different for everyone, but most people don't realize you don't have to be the next MLK or the President of the United States to be a leader. There are leaders all around us that we see every single day. Those that guide us, lift us up, and inspire us to do better. These are the everyday leaders, and I know quite a few. But the true answer to who inspires me the most is very much connected to what inspires me the most. One thing that I look for in others to inspire me is love. You have to love those around you deeply, whether you show it outwardly a lot or not. Another thing that sticks out to me is relatability. If you are doing well in life, helping others, walking confidently, and giving off the energy that a leader should, I will most likely look up to you. What takes it to another level however is relatability. If I feel like I can see some of myself in you, then I will feel like I can make it to where you are one day. Another big thing that I look for in others is perseverance. If you can give your all, work hard, and never give up, especially when facing adversity, that's something that I look up to. A person that always put forth 100% effort to realize their goals is someone that I not only admire but want to be as well. I know quite a few people with these and many more qualities, but if I had to choose some that inspire me the most, it would have to be my Mother, my friend Terondrick, and my friend Charles.

In this list of those that inspire me, it is only right to start with the woman who has been there throughout my entire life, my mom. Carla Young is a natural born leader; headstrong and determined while also kind and loving. I was raised in a single-family home and I'm a momma's boy at heart, so I've always looked up to my mother. She has raised and guided me and my brother to be the great men we are today. She cares for those she loves, especially her sons, as she provided our every need even when it was a struggle to. She made sacrifices, some days eating less just so her sons could eat more. Aside from financials, my mother has faced a large number of other adversities. From major health issues to facing loss, she has fought and worked through everything life has thrown at her, always coming out on top. Some things very difficult, my mom is also inspiring because she never gives up. When money was low, she always found a way to make things work. When health was permitting her from working at a hospital, she switched to being a home health nurse. When she wanted me to be in private school but couldn't afford it, she searched for who knows how long until she found a scholarship program that was a great fit and could make school affordable for us. My mother is truly one of the strongest people I know, literally and figuratively, which is yet another reason she is the most inspirational leader in my life.



When I first arrived here at USM I did not know anyone. Being over one thousand miles away from home, I didn't really expect to, but it really hit different when I got here. But it was exciting all the same; new faces to see and people to meet. I met a lot of individuals my freshman year of course, but one that really stood out to me the most was my friend Terondrick Waller. I saw him around a lot, as he was on Southern Style when I got here, and he also was one of the desk assistants that worked in my dorm. We were pretty cordial most of the semester, and towards the end he became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, the exact fraternity that I had a budding interest in. Of course, this led me to start talking to Terondrick more as well as paying more attention to what he did. This is where things started to shift, as I saw what kind of person he really was. Terondrick was very involved on campus, being not only in his fraternity, but also other organizations as well. All of which he worked very hard in, as he did with pretty much everything. He also held leadership positions in multiple organizations, including his fraternity which he led excellently. Many people knew him because of his involvement, which only boosted the number of those he was able to have an effect on. Those that knew him also loved him because he had such a bright personality and he could always give you a laugh, a hug, or some advice at the exact time you needed it. All these things that I learned about Terondrick over time led me to really look up to him, and he has honestly been my mark for impacting the campus ever since.



I'll be honest: In High School, I had a clique. Me and my friends were pretty tight, lasting pretty much from freshman year to senior year. Some years, different individuals held different roles in my life, but the group was always pretty much the same. One of these friends is named Charles Creek, and what a friend he is. Charles was always one of my most relatable friends, starting with the fact that we have the same name. But aside from that he is also very smart, likes the Information Technology field, and loves making people laugh. Charles is a great friend as well, always checking on us and making sure we are doing okay. He has even reached out to friends, in and out of town, when he believed one of our friends was having a rough time. This care for friends is definitely a quality that I admire. He is also very hardworking and patient. He works hard in a lot, but mostly fitness. In High school, Charles was on the football team but pretty out of shape. After High School, he worked hard to sculpt his body to be the way he wanted it. This involved trial, error, and a lot of work, but he never gave up and now he has

achieved most of what he desires. As I said, Charles is smart, so he comes across a lot of knowledge and opportunity. What's great is that he always shares this stuff with us, whether it be about working out, investing in stocks, or a little info on the government. He wants to not only come up and advance in the world, but he does it like a true leader as he wants to bring his people with him as well. These are qualities that I just can't ignore, which is why Charles Creek is an inspirational leader in my life.

