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Leadership ISU

Personal Leadership Statement

Over the course of this semester, I have learned a lot about leadership. I’ve learned that the definition of leadership can be very fluid, and there are no strict guidelines for being a leader. A leader can be positive or negative, and can lead by word or action. A leader does not always have to have a title associated with him or her either. The purpose of this paper isn’t to reiterate what I learned in Leadership ISU, but to explain my unique philosophy of leadership. Any person in the class can regurgitate the social model or the colors of leadership, but I’m here to apply those things to my own life and develop a leadership style of my own.

There are several things that inspire and guide my actions both in a leadership position and out. The greatest influence in my life would be God and the conscious He gave me. Without that moral compass, I would not be a leader. People look up to me for my morals and being able to hold them tightly in the turmoil that is college. Being in the Catholic school system all of my life, I wasn’t exposed as some other people were to the immoral aspects of life. The crowd I hung out with in high school didn’t indulge in that lifestyle either, but now that they’re in college, they’re freer to try new things, some of which may be bad for them. I recently had a conversation with one of my good friends about the new lifestyle she has chosen, and she feels awful about it because she knew I would be disappointed. That is when I truly realized that I’m a leader. I didn’t hold very many titles in high school, but I led by example all the time.

Other than my morals, my parents have been very helpful for giving advice and helping me make decisions. Both are successful people, and love what they do, so I would often turn to them for help in making a big decision, and that in turn has improved my decision-making skills to the point where I can make many large decisions on my own.

Speaking of my family, I don’t know what they currently would describe about my leadership style, and I don’t like to speculate. However, I would hope that they see me as the passive leader. By passive I don’t mean one that does nothing, but I hope they see me as a leader that doesn’t constantly try to gain followers, but leads by example and has the right beliefs to simply attract people towards me. Leading a meeting or gathering people together to accomplish some task isn’t really my style. My leadership style leans more towards just working extremely hard, and having that work ethic rub off onto others so as a team we would all collaborate to be as efficient as possible.

With this cooperative team and my leadership skills I hope to accomplish many things in life. In college alone, I hope to become Friley President and even IRHA President if I work hard enough. Even with one of these roles, I hope I can achieve a leadership position in Habitat for Humanity as well, since I enjoy that group very much. In my career, I’ll probably stick to doing what I love, even if a promotion might mean higher pay and a higher leadership role. Programming is what I love, so if the promotion takes that out of my primary job description, I’ll probably decline the promotion.

Taking all of this into consideration, here’s my personal definition of leadership: a quality and skill that everyone has, but some having better leadership skills than others. There are many different types of leaders and leadership, from vocal leaders to action leaders. Even with these different styles, every type is equally effective at leading the multitudes. For example, Mother Theresa was a leader who led by example, yet still achieved the same amounts of followers as a vocal leader, like Hitler. I chose these two people because they also demonstrate a positive leader and a negative leader. Hitler was such a good leader that he convinced all of the Nazis to follow him in his quest for a pure Aryan race.

Leaders are powerful people, and those with the best skills are running the world. I hope to hone my leadership skills and eventually hold a large sphere of influence within my community.