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Pregnant possibilities now birth a new; travailing to obtain it; for it must come to pass; I decree it, declare it, and call it in the spirit; to become what God has designed me to be.

-Bishop T.D. Jakes

Each person in this world is blessed with possibilities at birth. Yet each person must harbor, nurture and perfect these possibilities into achieving ones destiny. The emerging Leadership Institute helped me to harbor, nurture, and perfect these possibilities, thereby allowing me to get closer to me destiny. The institute helped to nurture and perfect skills such as communication, ethics, mindfulness, and conflict mediation all the while allowing me to find out who I am.

The Possibility of Communication

Communication is something that each person is granted whether, verbal, semi-verbal, or non verbal, one must communicate with the world. In the beginning I new that I communicated verbally very well, yet I had not perfected the skill of communication completely. I have always had a very distinctive attitude, and many times my attitude (semi-verbal communication) did not align with what I was trying to say. This in turn conflicted greatly. I would try to get someone's attention, and in order to do that I would just yell, Deborah and Randy showed us that by yelling I was only making the environment more chaotic. So now I just wait and listen, thereby bringing everything

down because the leader is waiting for control instead of trying to take control. My mother use to say, “A lot of times Rosalind you mean well but it’s all about the way you say something!” If asking for something one must be sincere, if requesting that someone do something you must be forceful yet not overbearing. These methods of communication are still helping me attempt to perfect this possibility.

The Possibility of being Ethical

Until this class I thought that I was a very ethical person; soon to my dismay, I figured out that I lack strongly in this category. I have always been a person that tries to get the job done, not really caring how the task was done, as long as it was done. That is not right because there are steps to processes that one must utilize in order to be a better leader. During a team building activity, our group found a loop hole in the rules and utilized it to get the activity complete. Loop holes at times, were not meant for people to just get over but are just forgotten stipulations. The speaker that day simply stated, “If this was to be in the newspaper, what would your mother say?” This statement is very true, I used to constantly think what would my parents say if they knew what I just did, or said, now I ask myself “What would God think of me?” before I do something, because my mother’s eyes can be hard to look in but it has no comparison to what God can do! I can sleep at night knowing that I did everything correct and utilized the proper steps.

The Possibility of Mindfulness

Lance Brunner, who I would like to say, was my faculty mentor, taught us about being mindful. Mindfulness is all about understanding your surroundings and staying in touch with them. We meditated, about how we as leaders need to be connected to those whom we lead. The idea of Servant leadership was revealed during this session. Servant

leadership is all about the leader working for the followers not the other way around. Corporations have begun to take on this philosophy, the employees are not just there to do what the boss says, yet the boss is there to find out the needs of the employees in order to have a better work environment. I am applying this type of leadership to my life. As an RA I am on the floor to help residents in any way possible, they are not there to do everything that I say, as an officer in the Black Student Union my responsibility is to serve the student body, bring forth ideas and initiatives to increase the retention, and enrollment of black students on UK's campus. Lance also taught us about understanding what realm of learning we are in. The first realm is our comfort zone, where small amounts of learning take place, this area is where you are not challenged but just sit back and relax. The third realm is your shut down area, one can't think, they are just there physically, this is where the least amount of learning takes place. The second realm is somewhere in between the first and the third. This is where the majority of learning takes place because one is challenged and their values and thoughts are questioned.

The Possibility of Conflict Meditation

Any time someone's morals and values, or even thoughts are questioned, conflicts take place. Some try to avoid conflict but not me. I am a person who faces conflict head on and deals with it. Conflict, ELI taught us, can be positive, because it is needed many times to move participates on. For instance, during a session on diversity the class was told to write different stereotypes and personal beliefs about different groups of people. This caused a little bit of commotion. Some people couldn't believe what others really thought about certain groups. I wrote that Jewish people believe that their holocaust is the biggest holocaust in the world. I simply pointed out that other holocausts were much

more extensive and brutal. This conflict caused people to look at issues from a different perspective.

Also in Conflict Meditation we learned how to avoid some conflict. “Some things just don’t deserve a response”, is what I say. Never stoop down to someone’s level to try to get them to see your point of view. Just give the facts to persuade not intimidate.

The Possibility of Who You Are?

One of the first sessions we did was with Rhonda Strouse, she had us answer questions in order to find out who we are. I tend to be a person that is straight forward; just tell me what I need to do- stop giving me the run around- type of person. I found out that I have many faults and many strengths as well. One of my many faults is that I happen to act before I think. For instance, if I see an opening that needs to be filled I step up not thinking about the amount of time that it might take or the level of commitment I can afford to give. This semester I have started to change that around, now I ask myself “Is this feasible, physically, mentally, and emotionally.” She also discussed how it is better to pick one or two projects instead of spreading myself thin so that nothing gets my full attention or effort. This notion of finding out who I am is really deep. If one doesn’t know themselves they want know where they’re going.

The possibility of where I’m going?

Rachel taught this session, on life and having a purpose driven life. I was forced to actually look at myself and ask what I want out of life and what I can give back. Since I was always with the idea of giving back to those whom gave to me, I didn’t have a problem with that but I didn’t really know what I wanted out of life. I had come to the conclusion that what I want out of life is just to be a humble servant of God. This is very

broad I know but it's what I want to do. I just want to follow where ever He leads me; whether that is to the oval office, or to a class room, I want to be placed where I can to the most for others. This vision of my life can only be achieved through goals that I create. But I can't only make goals but I must stick to them, and follow through.

This leads me to the conclusion of this paper, I have learned many things in this institute from how to communicate to how to have a vision, but the biggest notion that I have learned from this class is the notion that we all have something instilled in us, that just has to be nurtured, and perfected. This institute helped me to find those possibilities inside myself that will let me achieve my vision.