

Casey Harris

If you are looking to enhance your leadership skills and have an experience like no other, then apply for the Emerging Leaders Institute here at UK. Through the Institute I have made many good friends and had a chance to do two community service projects. One of the projects was group-planned. We went to the Bob Brown House for the physically and mentally challenged where we played games and worked in their garden. Our group had so much fun entertaining these kind folks for the day. We didn't want to leave and I think they didn't want us to leave, either.

My individual community service project was to collect books for the UK Pediatric Department. These pictures are of me giving a presentation to our class on the obstacles I went through and leadership skills I learned by doing this project. I almost reached my goal of 300 books by collecting books from places throughout Lexington. You can find information on the American Academy of Pediatrics at www.aap.org.

I have learned so much from ELI including leadership perspectives, communication skills, conflict mediation, creative thinking, ethics in leadership, dealing with diversity, and much about myself as a leader. With all of that under my belt, through the duration of the class the most important thing I gained is self confidence. I always knew I had it in me to be a good leader, but now after being through ELI, I am attempting to achieve greater goals. I will possibly be a brand new Ambassador for the College of Human Environmental Sciences and am running for the Hospitality Management Association President.

ELI has opened so many doors for me and I know that I am a long way from a closed door again. If you want to open the doors wider for your future, then fill out an

application and let ELI open the doors for you. Last, I'd like to thank Elizabeth, Lauren, Lance, everyone who went through ELI with me, the presenters, and all who donated books for the UK Pediatrics Department. Thank you all very much. For those who are selected for future ELI groups, congratulations and good luck.