

## **Ace McGill**

In the Emerging Leadership Institute I learned many valuable qualities that I will use for the rest of my life. Not only was this institute important in helping me progress in life, but also I learned many new skills. I learned new skills such as communication and how to follow leaders myself. Throughout my life there have been many situations where I have been the leader of an organization or a particular group. For example, in high school I was captain of my basketball and football team; therefore I made many decisions concerning my team. In doing this the majority of the time I made decisions myself without consulting with others. The Emerging Leader Institute allowed me to experience a different leadership role. It allowed me to experience the role of following leaders myself. In order to be a leader of an organization you must look at situations from all sides; and that is a very unique quality that I learned from ELI.

Our daily classes were unique because they involved intense interaction. The presenters that came to ELI were all enthusiastic, which made their presentations more interesting. They had true feelings in their presentations. I believe I can truly say I took something from every presenter that will last me a lifetime. For example, each presenter had a nice way of getting the class interactive and getting their creative points across. When the presenters did their jobs I tried to take mental notes on how they performed each activity. I did this because I can use some of their techniques when I approach presentational situations. Many times in class I was extremely tired, but the intense interaction in class was very helpful in getting me through difficult days.

In ELI the group as a whole had to work together to get different tasks done. When doing this these were real life simulations and they were all effective in getting the point

across. Most of the time the group as a whole had a difficult time accomplishing goals. People would talk at the same time or people would fail to listen to others. Again, this is a real life situation of what can happen when there are many people working on the same task. It seems like it would be easy to accomplish things with a group of leaders, but actually it is hard because everyone wants to lead. After doing a numerous amount of these activities the group as whole learned how to get things done correctly. It was nice watching the group go from not getting tasks done to completing tasks quickly and effectively.

The most challenging task the Emerging Leadership Institute put on me was my personal presentation. This was challenging because I am I shy person, therefore I thought it would be difficult to present in front of my classmates. Actually, this personal presentation was a very big confidence booster because I never thought I had the ability to perform a good presentation alone. Doing this particular project made me feel like a true leader because I overcame fear. When I finished my presentation I was extremely happy, not because I was finish, but because I had conquered my fear. Now, when I have another presentation to approach I will be able to look back on this one and think of the success I had. Watching my colleagues present was also interesting, I learned new techniques and I became more comfortable because everyone 's presentation was wonderful. I just never thought I could do so well and I did.

Overall the Emerging Leader Institute shined a light on my personality. It allowed me to see things from a different view. I was able to interact with people from different culture backgrounds. The new friends I gained all had a unique side to them and I can truly say I learned something from just about everyone in ELI. I learned that there are

people just like me who have goals and aspirations, but just don't know how to reach them. There are people who are afraid of failure, but what everyone had in ELI was leadership mentality. Whether someone was a outspoken person or a very quiet person we all contributed leadership qualities to the group. Learning from people who are around my age is very exciting. I never knew that people my age had so many good ideas. I highly recommend this institute to people who are trying to enhance their leadership skills. Leadership is a quality that can change your life and others. Leadership is an important skill and when used appropriately leadership is very valuable.