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My experience in ELI was a very worthwhile commitment. I not only got to design and initiate my own leadership project that I felt very passionate about, but I also learned many new leadership skills that I will be able to take with me through the rest of college and into the work field. I found out things about myself that I had not discovered before, such as that I am an ESTJ (meaning Extrovert, Sensor, Thinker, Judger). At UK, all your courses are very directed, but this class was different. You got to experience a relaxing environment that you felt comfortable in while learning vital information that you can use in all leadership positions. I wish that everyone got to experience this class in their college career.

There are many things that stand out to me that made a lasting impression during the course of ELI, but the one thing that stands out the most is my individual leadership project. My passion in life is to become a Speech-Language Pathologist, so I got to go into a rural town in Eastern Kentucky and work in an elementary school with kids who had speech and hearing impediments. One of the first lessons I was taught in ELI was to step outside of the box, and I remember as a small child in speech therapy getting drilled with articulation cards over and over that seemed very boring and repetitive. So when planning my project, I did not want that to be the case. I wanted the kids to interact with each other in a fun environment that was not monotonous. So, the day was planned with speech/articulation and language activities dealing with the upcoming holiday, Easter. By making Easter baskets out of paper cups, green pipe cleaner, Easter grass, and candy, the language kids got to work with colors and concepts and the articulation kids worked with

vocabulary using their articulation cards. The kids had a blast; they kept attentive, and learned at the same time.

This leadership project impacted me because it helped me to go into a classroom with a group of kids and use effective communication skills. Without it I would not have been successful in explaining the activities to the kids and have been able to help the kids benefit from their individual needs with their speech and language problems. The kids with disabilities had a huge impact on me because I feel like I can really relate to these kids (having hearing loss and previous speech impediments), and most importantly I have a passion to help these kids. I feel very passionate about this project because it's part of me and it is something that I have been faced with. I learned that my greatest strength is my patience and understanding because I was faced with many obstacles along the way. You need to learn to be flexible not only with the kids, but also the people that you are working under. I've learned that your cooperation can carry you through a tuff situation. Also something that I learned to do that will become beneficial in the upcoming years in my major is that I learned to keep clinician records for my students. This plus/minus data system is used to record if sounds are produced correctly or incorrectly and if the student has demonstrated an understanding of the concept taught and is able to identify with colors (in this particular activity) correctly. At the end of the session a percentage of correct responses were calculated.

I now feel more competent in pursuing my endeavor and I definitely have found my passion in life because I was able to help increase the children's correct production of sounds in the initial, middle, and final position of words. I also feel like I was able to help them increase their understanding of colors and concepts. From here, I plan to pursue my

passion and become one of the best speech pathologist ever! I feel like I have grown personally through this class because I have gotten to concentrate on what I want to do in my upcoming years. Because of my ELI experience I feel like I will be able to go out and use my skills like teamwork, listening skills, and the ability to challenge myself and to step outside of my comfort zone. Without this class, I may have never gotten to initiate this project by myself and learn the many helpful tactics that it takes to be a leader.