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Spring ELI

ELI and I

This class has taught me so much in my journey to greatness. Leadership to me hasn't changed since I've been accepted to this program, but that doesn't mean that I didn't take anything from this class. This class has really helped me all throughout this year as a leader and as a person as a whole. There were so many different activities that we've have done throughout the year that was interesting and really just tests on what kind of leader we are. The main focus of this class was to me the students as a whole. That's one of the biggest things that I have taken from this class. There were many things that happened that was not scripted to happen, but that was what I thought was the backbone of the class.

I remember the first class that we ever had, the one when we had to pick out everybody's items that they brought. I couldn't match none of the items to the owner. The main reason was because we didn't know that much about each other at the time. But if I was asked to do that whole activity again, I probably would get everybody's items correct. This activity to me taught me that you have to get to know everybody that you which to associate yourself with. It did a good job at doing that. It was another time when we had to be blindfolded and run down a straight line and trust the other two people at the other end to catch you. When Grace went down the line and me and Brent was the ones who was suppose to catch her. As she ran down the line we caught her but we almost cloths lined her in the process. That wasn't the main point to that activity but it was funny. I know when I was about to do it I didn't want to go. It's kind of hard to trust people that you don't know all that well. I still had to do it, and I did. The whole way

down the line, I was using negative words, not because I was mad, but because I didn't know what was going to happen. I think that was the objective of that activity; to trust because you don't know what's always going to happen with something that you put into motion, even if it's yourself.

The thing that I will probably remember the most is the final presentation that we did just recently. This gave me a chance to explain what I had to go through in order for my project to succeed. It also gave me the chance to showcase what was taken from the course thus far and that made it even better. I was given the time and respect of my fellow classmates to present to them that we all had a vision and each took different routes in getting to them. I really liked this part of the course probably because I like to talk a lot. Never have my classmates told me to shut up because I talked too much, although Jared tried to on the sneak tip. But my classmates listening to everything I said gave me a sense of importance with the class and that they respected what I had brought to them. When I have people listen to what I have to say, it makes me feel like I have established myself as a credible person to listen to. In return, I showed the same respect to the others that address the class, some just did it more than others.

This class has really made me take others' thoughts into consideration. If anybody knew me before this class, they can tell you that I was more like a dictator. But interacting in this class made me realize that in order to be a great leader you have to know how to adapt to the situation that you are placed in. I now know that you can still have an overall say on something but it is respectful and proper to get other people that's involved in the decisions. Respect is an overall impact that this class has added to my list of good leadership qualities that I conquer. It is one that I have tended to overlook over time, not knowing that if it's not intact, I can lose many points in leadership qualities.

Taking all what I've learned in the semester, I hope that now I can use it in a much meaningful manner. I hope to not only use what I have been through, but also teach it to others so that they can learn from me as I learned from others. I plan on doing this through the many different things that I am involved in. I hold position in a lot of organizations here on campus, including my very own student organization. I hope to do this because I am given the opportunity to be put in front of a different variety of people that I can lead to a positive change. When I did my individual project, I ran into a lot a problems. That was the main reason why I started my own student organization. But when I did, I seen myself taking on something much further then a single fund raiser. I had people wanting to follow me because I was taking action for something that they too also believed. This alone along with other events basically put me at the for-front of my class. I say it all the time that I am destined for greatness, but I do truly believe that. You have to be committed in order to achieve greatness. I know that I cant stop until I get there. I feel that it is my duty to take what I know and do something good with it. So therefore I will continue to try to set a high standard and making changes where need to be.

As I said before, I don't think that this class has really made me different. I was considered a leader before and after this class. It better transfer me into an ongoing transition, but it didn't change me. I had done so much at an early age, so I was already use to skills required in order to be a good leader. This class did make me look at the different kind of leaders there are, and to take in to consideration the ability to adapt to all when need to be. I don't think that this class makes leaders, I believe that the people here are already leaders, this class just helps to develop. I know that I'm not perfect, so that's why I think this class help to develop the skills and qualities that I already have.

I tell to the new comers coming after this inspiring Spring 2005 class, that you all can say

that you are leaders, but that doesn't necessarily mean that you are. Leadership is not a routine that you have to follow in order to keep that so called title, but it is an attitude that one has. An attitude that one must have and know how to control in order to best assert it when needed to.

There will never be another class like ours, but that is not the goal anyways. The goal should be to take everything out of this class that you possibly can. All what you experience in this class does not happen by mistake, but it is a life lesson that will be learned. We were given an honor to participate in such a program that extends its reward far beyond the class room and it impacts your everyday life. Not many other classes that I have taken or will take can have a sudden positive change as this one did. Everybody in this program wanted to be here (with the exception of one), and for someone to want to be anywhere and devote so much time and effort tells me that they believe in not only the program but also the participants. But before I say my ado, I want to thank every one of my classmates, speakers, and presenters. I also want to thank my peer mentor Kenton, he helped us single handedly when we needed it. This guy is a prime example of a guy that went through the program and decided to come back because it made an impact on him. I also want to thank Angel. She has helped me out all throughout the semester with different issues that I had. She was always willing to work with you and wants you to participate in many other leadership opportunities. If you need to know what's going on, on campus, she is the lady that you need to talk to. Now for the last single person that I want to personally thank is Jared. This guy was our instructor and so much more. He is the person to know, because he is one that will do all he can to help you if you are truly passionate about something that you want to do. He sponsored my student organization, which he gave me the idea in the first place. He guided many in so many different ways that I can yet come to grips with. He also opened the door for me so that I can join other leadership opportunities that came

up including UK Dance Marathon. And to him I give all my thanks to. This was one experience that I know will stay in my mind and heart forever. Things like this were not meant to be forgotten.

The spring class of 05 happens to be the best class in my eyes. I don't think that anyone else can top the things we did and the experiences that we had. I don't want anybody taking this as bragging about our class, take it as a challenge. You will get a lot of those in this class, so I'm only preparing you for what you will be going through this whole semester.