

Blazing the Trail: My experiences as a CCG Leadership Intern

Introduction:

To me, leadership means inspiring others to care by what I do. I believe wholeheartedly that others can be themselves versus what they think that the world wants them to be. I hope to continue to walk this path of inspiring others to be more empowered.



Background:

Qualities like leadership, passion, confidence are not learned through textbooks, but are developed within our childhood and general day-to-day life. Since I was a child my life consisted of numerous of adventures, most of which were outdoor actives such as fishing, camping and biking riding. I enjoyed being outside with family and friends for it kept a balance with school, sports and overall life. So, during my sophomore and junior year of Highschool I decide to be more involved with nature by going to a summer camp. The name of the camp was *Young life* which involved high adventure, lots of fun, great food and excellent speakers. While there, I had a young life leader who helped me find my purpose in this world which inspired me to feel and be empowered.

My Leadership Roles on Campus:

- Alpha Epsilon Delta (President) May 2018 - January 2020
- Association of Fraternity Leadership & Values (AFLV) Central Conference (February 8, 2019)
- Gateway Mentor August 19 – December 2, 2019
- Sixth District of Omega Psi Phi Boys Leadership Camp 2019 (June 29th -July 5th)
- 2020 International Undergraduate Summit (January 16 - 19 2020)
- CCG Leadership Internship – August 2019 - Present

Last summer, I enrolled in the Sixth district Omega Psi Phi Leadership Camp, held at Camp Hanes in North Carolina. My leadership position was to be a camp leader for sixteen kids between the ages of eleven and twelve. I've built a strong relationship with each of these young men, providing them with knowledge from my personal experiences about hard work, being respectful and staying focused. We won football games, overcame fears through sharing encouragement with others, and made lifelong memories inside the camp house each night. I connected with these kids on a personal level and their displays of joy and happiness brought back memories of my days as a camper. As a child, I didn't have a father figure, but I did have leaders and mentors that guided me in the right direction. I am honored to be in a position to support these boys the way I was supported so that they can one day grow up and do the same for others.

The Association of Fraternity Leadership & Values (AFLV) held a conference fall of 2019 in Indianapolis. Wingate University nominated me to represent the school for Omega Psi Phi fraternity. The primary goal of this conference was to bring over 200 different campuses together to gain knowledge and leadership skills so that they could bring these newly gained skills back to their respective fraternities and sororities. I learned how to increase Alpha Epsilon Delta's presence and impact within the community, as well as how to

strengthen communication and create intentional programming. Using the knowledge I gained at this conference, Alpha Epsilon Delta has since partnered with Wingate University to name an expressway after us and we have committed to do community service on campus at least twice a month.

Last Semester, I was a Gateway Mentor for the Wingate class of 2023. In this role I have built relationships with students on campus by being involved with them not only the classroom but also in their extracurricular activities. I was a 'go-to' support system for students that they could call on as they encountered situations such as missing class and needing advice on how to study, manage time, and find the way around campus. I provided support and access to helpful campus resources so that they could succeed both in the classroom and in their personal life.

So, how did it all start in the CCG?... It all started with a question for Dr. Hyland in the summer...I asked!... How can I do more of as leader within my community and on campus and he direct me to Dr. Wright and everything from there has become history.

Method:

Started: September 03, 2019

Total Hours with CCG: *180hrs*



Heart for Monroe:



Heart for Monroe was started after a local youth group took a mission trip to the Dominican Republic in the summer of 2014. When they returned, it was clear they knew more about the needs of the people in a foreign land than in their own community. Heart for Monroe was started in the fall of 2014. The idea was simple – we are stronger when we come together and serve as one. (H4M) is a nonprofit organization that exists to unite and mobilize churches, community organizations, ministries, businesses, and individuals to address homelessness, hunger, education, and relationships in our community.

- Wingate University and Heart for Monroe has allowed me and few other students within the CCG to be a part of men and women in the making mentoring club. My work was to recruit and support students on campus who wanted to be mentors. I had a team of five students who went to several schools and I held evening focus groups to give us time to talk about their experiences and determine the impact of this service. Some of their comments are included below. This mentorship program focuses on discovering and developing character and confidence in young men and women in our local schools. Both the mentors and mentees gain knowledge from each other through the actives and discussion. These actives and discussions consist of teaching eye to eye contact while shaking someone’s hand, commutation and teamwork as well as learning life skills like tying a tie or scarf.

Students Viewpoint

Ashlyn Robinson: “Mentoring has helped me better my communication skills and prepare me for my future goals. This program is awesome, and more students should be involved because sometimes we do not realize how much impact we have on child.”

Tyuana Bailey: “I think that I wanted to go so hard for the community that I really wanted to use all of my talents to serve them as much as possible. I wanted to serve with like-minded individuals, so I created experiences such as the fashion show to engage people in selfless service for the purpose of mutual advancement. I had to try to put myself in the shoes of each student because they had their own reasons for coming to the program and my goal was to make sure they left with everything they came for and more. Unfortunately, time didn’t always agree with me.

Jeremiah:

“It really was different for me because I was in a position where I could help someone for the first time in that way. Although I wasn’t really in the same predicament in high school, I wish I had an ear to listen to my story. It left me feeling motivated to be a leader on campus and get involved more. I feel like Wingate can maybe host an event on campus for the high schoolers to attend to get them motivated for school”

After seeing and listening from a few of my peers’ point of view regarding during their experience with men and women in the making it made me also growth as a person. I thought the only people would benefit from this would be the kids, but it also had an impact on the student as well as my personal life. It has inspired me to use all my skills and ability to do more for the CCG and others in the community.

Fueling kids’ dreams by serving as a mentor

<https://www.wingate.edu/around-campus/common-good/current-projects/~board/projects/post/fueling-kids-dreams-by-serving-as-a-mentor>

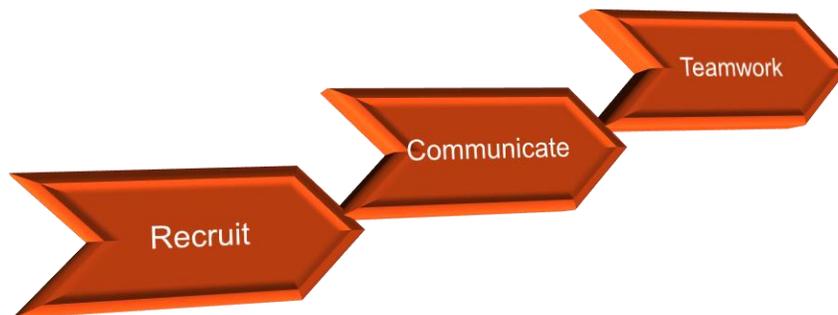
Wooden Table:

- **Motto:** *Welcome Neighbor*
 - *The phrase “Welcome Neighbor” is the heart of the table project. The table represents a welcome from the CCG -- open arms to everyone within the community, staff and of course the students. No matter what your religion, ethnicity or culture, you are welcome. The CCG only desires to inspire growth and companionship – around the table.*



Design & Structure

After weeks of brainstorming different ideas to make the CCG more spacious and welcoming to everyone we finally came up with the idea of building a table for meetings and small gatherings. This table would be convenient for fraternities, sororities, clubs, teachers and anyone else who wanted to use the space.



The wooden table project consisted of recruitment of students to help make it from wood donated from Brad Turley's farm. My task was also to communicate the purpose and reason for the table as well as foster involvement from other students. Brad Turley and I both believe that student involvement would be crucial in making this table having a deep meaning as well as the CCG space itself. Instead of Dr. Wright and Brad Turley taking over the whole design and structure of this table, they believe this wooden table would have

more purpose and worth behind it if student designed and constructed it themselves. This was my task. I gathered design advice from CCG students and now we have the table on campus to work on. However, due to COVID 19 we have to wait to continue our work on this table.

Trustee's Dinner



I was asked to speak about my leadership position in the CCG at a spring Trustee Dinner. At the dinner I expressed my gratitude to my grandmother, uplifting mentors as well as the CCG for welcoming me with open arms to the family. In

my speech I explained “In my youth I have had some really great mentors and one of the biggest influencers in my life that has had the most impact on me is my grandmother. She has given me a lot of tools for life and for life’s obstacle. She tells me..... work hard, stay focus, don’t waste time and family is everything similar to what Wingate represents.” This opportunity allowed me to speak about the CCG and my role in making it a success.

Link Speech: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dsikOjOIUQqOmGIppDSIkqSq4vlfA7_HNlv4LW6eO1E/edit?usp=sharing

ALIEN Project:



Currently I am helping Dr. Chris Harrist and Dr. Nick DeLangie with a CCG initiative. We call this the ALIEN Project which represents Adventure Leadership Immersion Experience in Nature (ALIEN).

I was able to build relationship with wonderful people as we helped test activities that would be part of a one-day, two-day, or three-day ALIEN adventure.

During our adventures on this prototype ALIEN excursion, we navigated the forest and heard the biography of land. Nick DeLangie wanted to ensure that we had a clear description of a soldier's method of survival and experience it firsthand. So, we split into two groups, used compasses to navigate the trails, and built a shelter only what was given by mother nature. You can see ours blended in with trees and used leaves and twigs.



As the leader of one group I felt that the best approach to ensure our shelter would be safe and durable was to listen to everyone viewpoint first before starting to build. In doing I learned that a few were used to outside actives such as building a shelter.

I believed that the best route was to gather a few strong sticks and build shelter similar to the Indian teepee, but one person in the group opposed of this idea.

Instead of forcing my idea on the group I allowed the person with the other idea to lead us in making a shelter for the team. In doing so she helped us create a safe and durable shelter that would protect us from the wind and rain. *I learned that when my teammate took the initiative to bring another idea besides my own to the group, it sparked in her a sense of excitement for what else can she other to do -- within the CCG and for herself.*

Challenges & Enjoyment

Challenges:

1. A few challenges that I have faced throughout my time with the Collaborative for the Common Good is getting comfortable with being out of my *Comfort Zone*. My fraternity, Heart for Monroe and CCG has all allowed me to see it's okay being uncomfortable sometimes as long as your heart is in the right place for others, especially for kids.
2. Another challenge I faced as a leader is *Different People*. There will always be people on your team who work differently from you and others on your team. Everyone within your team doesn't always want to do group projects, but rather work alone in a manner to get things done. This isn't an actual issue instead it was a concept that I overlooked because I wanted everyone to become one and work together.
3. Lastly, one of my hardest challenges was *Delivering Bad News* to my team about events being cancelled or reschedule. Once I got the news Wingate University was closing early due to COVID-19 I felt bad giving the students who were eager to get started on the table the news that we won't be able to get started this semester. We will have to postpone till further notice.

Enjoyment

1.)



▲

▶ WIDE



▶ HI

▶ WIDE



▲ LO

One of the things that I enjoyed most in my role as CCG Leadership Intern was being able to be a mentor and role model for the kids at Wingate

middle school and Monroe Highschool. Allowing them to understand how their own values are important and how one day they might be in the position to inspire others and do more within the community.

2.)

CCG Team Meetings



During a thanksgiving dinner we join together as a family to embrace each other's presence with positive body language, meaningful discussion and being enthusiastic to achieve new insight. This is equivalent to CCG's weekly team meeting. In our board

room meetings, we remove all distractions such as technology to ensure the person speaking is receive the audience full attention. As everyone is going around the room expressing great ideas and future projects, I am thinking of questions and ways we as a team can help this person carry out these overall goals.

Future Goals:

- Collect Data for Dr. Lapan
- Wooden Table Project
- Podcast and Social Media Page
- ALIEN Project experiment
- Nature and Leadership