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*Leadership Credo*

 Last fall, I was asked to write a paper where I described my leadership style and how I wanted to be remembered as. At that time, I pondered on what to write about, I had no clue on what I was going to do. A while after, while being in this class, I remembered about this paper and I realized how drastically my “ideal” leadership style has changed. Through this past year, I’ve come into realization that there is not a perfect leader, but we can work to be a better version of ourselves every day, always keeping in mind to include all aspects of leadership (strength, diversity, service and facilitation). At the same time that we guide and lead people towards a common goal.

 After a semester taking SLSS 1100, many of the theories explained in the class have influenced my last decision and determined what kind of leader I am. Based on this, I came up with two questions to better guide myself in this leadership journey. 1) What difference am I going to make in the world/community and 2) How do I want to be remembered.

Life experiences and situations make us realize and discover aspect of our own personalities that we have not seen within ourselves. Something I recently learned about myself is that I like to help and serve other, not only individuals but also communities. Making a difference in a community is not an easy task and as cliché it might sound, this is what want to do. After deeply thinking about it I came up with certain steps I need to take in order to impact anyone:

* Starting from the micro, leading up to the macro
* Create a sense of community
* Find solutions, don’t get stuck with the problem
* Be understanding of other people’s perspectives
* Advocate for voiceless people
* Be more open and inclusive

Some of these, sound better in paper than actually doing them; but to me, I have great joy and great experiences performing and learning these. This is due to the current position I am in, Student Association President. I am deeply thankful and grateful to everyone who elected me to represent them, and every day of my life I try to do it as best as I can, taking into account my constituent’s perspectives and opinions. This year, made me shift everything about myself, I got to know a “new me” I did not know at all! I came to realization that what I though was the right leadership style, the one I used in my last class (being a friendly leader), was not really who I want to be remembered as. I want to be remember as an authentic leader. Someone who embraced her weaknesses and strengths in order to empower and help others.

Theories and Ideologies has risen and fallen though out history, leaving empires or wars but we have to also understand that the change comes within each one of us and our determination to do better for our neighbor. Being a leader is not an easy task, being in an important role is a huge responsibility where you have to trust your intuition and skills in order to run things and who to take with you during the way. Many people today criticize how society is. It is easy to see and criticize from the outside, but sometimes we need to step back and see what we are doing as individuals an collective to make our country a better place.

The world is in need of leaders, people who care about people and not money. Sadly, it is hard to find people who are truly focused on leaving a positive legacy for the future generations. Also, no one realized how hard things are until they experience them. If we want this spectrum to change, we need to start working from ourselves, our community, our family, and our friends. By making small steps that can lead to a greater change.