



What people are saying about The LeaderShape® Institute... (in 2015)

Everyone is a leader. Everyone is born with leadership qualities, some are more apparent than others. Those who weren't "born leaders" can use their strengths to become quality, effective leaders themselves. I wish everyone could attend this institute and learn that for themselves.

*Trevor Sean Olson
Utah State University*

I will never be the same as the fire that was sparked will never go out because of LeaderShape.

*Eddie Williams, Jr.
University of Michigan*

I also met very inspiring individuals who I look forward to keeping in touch with as well as continue to accomplish our visions and lead through our passions. I know I can always go back to them when I am having challenges working with other leaders or am facing challenges achieving my goal/vision.

*Nikki Rodgers
Rollins College*

I really appreciate the facilitators' genuine sincerity and ability to stir our passions into visions for a better future.

*Randall Striblin
University of West Georgia*

I am so thankful I walked through the doors and into this amazing environment and community because I learned more about me and where I want to go in life in those six days than I did in the past eighteen years of my life.

*Julianne Martone
Cedar Crest College*

Overall, it was a great and truly life-changing experience. It has changed my view of the world and I will use that for good.

*Kristiyan Karaasenov
Moravian College*



After attending the Institute, I've learned so much. I enjoyed getting the chance to discover my vision, goals, core values, and my personal leadership styles. LeaderShape pushed me to think in new ways and to take time to reflect on life.

*Grace Swenson
Drake University*

I learned things about myself that I could not learn on my own.

*Diomarys Nunez
Moravian College*

I was able to meet an incredible variety of people from all over the United States. In my small group, I met individuals from Pakistan, China, California, Massachusetts, Mexico, and many other places. Through these relationships, I was able to open my mind to new ideas and possibilities.

*Lydia Williams
Texas Woman's University*

I learned that being vulnerable is sometimes being strong.

*Xinrui Yao
University of Illinois*

I also left this conference with a better understanding of who I am and what I stand for; I now know my core values are honesty, compassion, respect, optimism, and growth. Moreover, I left this conference with a stronger knowledge of what drives me and what I am most passionate about. But most significantly, I left this conference a better man, and I left with 68 brothers.

*D'Kari Wilson
University of Michigan*

My vision is to have everyone overcome their self-hate and have the ability to express themselves and be open. I never realized I had this dream until I was challenged and pushed at LeaderShape.

*Rachel Rogala
Ohio University*



While at LeaderShape I met and worked with amazing people that made a huge impact on my life as a leader and as an individual. I was able to learn new concepts, strengthen what I already learned, and most importantly grow. I also met individuals that I feel will be a part of my life for a long time. LeaderShape inspired me as well as made me more humble and I am truly grateful for that.

*Katie Habermehl
Moravian College*

Before I went to the conference, I kept telling friends, family, and co-workers that there is someone I am supposed to meet at this conference I would say that I do not know exactly who this person is, but I can feel them. That person I was supposed to meet was myself.

*Michael Boateng
University of Southern California*

I wouldn't trade my experience at LeaderShape for anything in the world. The skills I developed, the things I learned, and the person I am becoming because of the Institute are things for which I will always be grateful.

*Trevor Sean Olson
Utah State University*

After attending the Institute, I know much more about me. I have always known what mattered to me, but I finally found a way to put it all together to give me a vision.

*Julianne Martone
Cedar Crest College*

LeaderShape empowered me to have faith in others and in myself. It encouraged me to act on the things I think are important.

*Emma Symonds
University of Massachusetts-Amherst*

The 6-day session allowed me to better discover what kind of leader I am, as well as how to reach and empower others who have a different style. I was able to share my vision with 49 other bright minds and I found inspiration in the videos, the lectures, and the family cluster time. I grew immensely from that short experience.

*Joshua Young
University of Richmond*



It gave me the place to reflect on myself and my goals to change the world and break my vision down into attainable steps.

*Rachel Udabe
University of Southern California*

It is funny how one week with complete strangers can give you the ability to feel like you can change the world and do it effectively. Not only do I understand the importance of community, integrity, relationships and more, but also I know how to be an effective leader because of my newfound knowledge. LeaderShape had this amazing ability to make a brighter future by stimulating young college students to step out of their comfort zone and dare to make a positive change.

*Julianne Martone
Cedar Crest College*

I was able to meet many other student leaders and make connections that will last a lifetime. With the knowledge provided, I feel we can make a huge difference in the world.

*Philip McLaughlin
University of Massachusetts-Boston*

After attending the Institute, I've realized that I've learned that I have the potential to make a real, quantifiable difference in this world. The week empowered me to be who I really am, and to stand up for the values that are really important to me.

Family Cluster time was particularly meaningful for me. It taught me how strong relationships can develop quickly when you make yourself vulnerable to others.

*Emma Symonds
University of Massachusetts-Amherst*

LeaderShape helped me solidify my vision and opened my eyes to a more hopeful future. I especially enjoyed the lessons on leading with integrity, and I can't wait to put my new knowledge into action.

*Hannah Porter
Rollins College*



The week I spent at the Institute was truly life changing. It is rare to be surrounded by other peers with similar drive and like-minded goals as myself. This week validated my passion and my vision for the society we live in.

*Samantha DeCapua
Widener University*

The learning community that I was lucky enough to be a part of sincerely changed my life for the better. Not only did they provide me with wonderful new friendships, but they also gave me more support than I ever felt possible. With that support, I am excited to go back into the real world and work toward accomplishing my vision. While I'm sad that my time at the Institute is over, I am forever grateful for all of the lessons, all of the self-discovery, and all of the support. These are things that only LeaderShape could have given me which is why I'm so happy that I got to be a party of such a wonderful organization.

*Jess Choate
Ohio Wesleyan University*

I also learned the true meaning of the value of one, power of all. It's truly amazing what a group of individuals can do together.

*Erin Griffin
Drake University*

Immediately after arriving I made connections with fellow conference participants. These immediate connections were built into meaningful relationships through discussions and activities that we participated in at LeaderShape. Throughout the week I was inspired by fellow attendees' willingness to share their ideas as well as personal details they had never shared with anyone else. My time at LeaderShape provided me the chance to formulate a vision and deeply investigate my values and personality.

*Matthew Dodier
University of Oregon*

I learned so much about what it takes to be a leader and how important it is to be authentic.

*Kelsey Michener
St. John Fisher College*



I have come out as a better woman with the tools to change the world for the better. I have a direction to go with my dreams and the confidence to follow them.

*Courtney Dunne
Ohio Wesleyan University*

Some of my “highs” for the week were meeting with the facilitators who were so dedicated to helping the participants. One of the facilitators took the time to get to know me and it allowed me to understand the value of getting to know someone based on their goals in life and the significance that brings to a friendship.

*Will Gualtieri
University of North Florida*

The Institute challenged me to think differently about how I can help my community and taught me that leadership is a choice I make every single day.

*Phoebe Lockhart
University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

That was by far one of the best weeks of my life and I say that in all honesty. I always thought vulnerability was a bad thing – meaning weakness. But I couldn't have been more wrong; it takes strength to reveal every part of you, the good and the bad. But I also realized how much stronger my relationships became (in a matter of 6 days) because of that.

*Madison Carlson
Ohio University*

The tools I received from my co-leads were amazing and the relationships I built were game-changing. I went to this conference hoping to take some good tips away from it, but I never expected to really come into myself as a leader.

*Teri Bradford
Chatham University*

After attending the Institute, I've realized that I've learned the importance of both inner and outer work and leading with integrity. I've also learned that my voice matters and my vision can and will make a difference in society. Some of my “highs” for the week were putting my vision on paper for others to see and bonding with my family cluster.

*LaRaine Gratrey
University of Alabama-Huntsville*



I was able to meet amazing people from all over who helped me to see the world in a more global way. I also was able to tap my passion and put my vision into words.

*Kelly Smith
Middlesex Community College*

I've learned a lot about myself. My personalities, my group behaviors, my core values, and my goals. I also learned a lot from the activities that we did during the week.

*Sijja Li
University of Alabama-Huntsville*

During this conference, I was able to shape my vision for the future alongside some of the most intellectual, motivated, and driven young men from the nation's top universities. Words cannot describe the profound impact this conference has had on my life. Despite our many different backgrounds, we managed to collectively acknowledge the dire need for progression and unification within the African American community. We began a journey that has ultimately expanded our minds to recognize the infinite possibilities of the future. As a result, we formed a lifelong bond that will never be broken. LeaderShape was truly inspirational and I will never forget this life changing experience.

*Donald J. Finley
Towson University*

It is amazing how surrounding yourself with other hardworking individuals can be so inspiring and impactful. After attending the Institute I have regained the confidence to lead with integrity, authenticity, and respect.

*Chloe Knappenberger
Westminster College*