



Leadership is for Everybody

Casey Carter, Psychology, 2022

Leadership

SUMMARY

This past summer, I was an Orientation Leader for UTSA. My responsibilities involved leading a group of 20-60 students, depending on the week, around campus for a tour and to each designated activity of Orientation scheduling. My personal goals for this job was to improve my leadership and speaking skills. I also wanted to provide support to the incoming freshman as they began their transition to college. Each week, half of the OLs would be on "Blue Track" and half on "Orange Track," and each track would have a program day with students once a week. This day was jampacked full of activities, so it was extremely important to get our groups where they needed to be on time. We also had to get students excited about attending UTSA and learning about our traditions and events.



SPICES

This experience perfectly embodies the Leadership SPICE. OLs were the main person in charge of groups, and had to be ready and prepared for situations such as last minute changes to the schedule, a lost student, or a student who seems disconnected or sad.

HERBS

OLs needed to be honorable, as we were left alone with students most of the day. Resilience was required, to keep going through fatigue, & supportiveness was needed to help nervous students.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

My Orientation experience embodies the learning outcomes of agency through accomplishment and communicating effectively. With each group of students, my confidence increased. Through facing my fears of leading and speaking, I now know that I can do anything if I worry less about failure and simply put myself out there. This includes communicating effectively as well, since we would have different groups from diverse majors each week. Therefore, I had to adjust the way I spoke and my material, based on the group I had that day.



IMPACT

Being an introvert, just the thought of leading and speaking to a large group of peers was frightening. The Orientation Leader position allowed me to step outside my comfort zone, shaping me into a more confident leader and speaker. I was able to impact my student groups by providing support, answering questions, and making connections with them to ease anxiety and let them know they already have at least one friend at UTSA. Since I had just completed my freshman year, I knew firsthand how difficult the transition can be and I was able to give great advice and strategies to my students.

ADVICE

The first step to achieving your goals is to believe that who you are is enough, you don't have to change your personality to push yourself outside of your comfort zone. Stepping outside of your bubble can open doors, increase confidence, & help you find new things you enjoy.