Jude Casper

Professors Jennifer Stewart and Billy Ratz

EDEX 2750: Student Leadership Development

15 December 2022

Leadership Philosophy

Before taking this class, I didn't know much about my leadership style or what I wanted to accomplish in my leadership journey. Now, I believe that I have a general idea about what I want to achieve in the future and how I can achieve those goals. The leadership inventories we took at the beginning of the semester helped shed some light on what kind of leader I am. The results that I got revealed me to be both a task-oriented and relationship-oriented leader, with more of a lean into relationships. I believe that these results are true to my leadership style. I like to be organized in my leadership roles, but I also think that communication is a lot more important. Encouraging others to succeed and helping them find ways to do so is something that I enjoy doing.

When we had the retreat to Sunnen Lounge in the middle of the semester and we did the values activity, I learned a lot about what my main leadership values are. My values were creating good relationships, having fun, promoting inclusivity, encouraging well-being, and collaborating with others. I think that these are all accurate to what my leadership style is like. I want everyone to be included and feel seen, and I want people to feel like they can have fun. Life is too short for everything to be serious.

I think everything I learned during these leadership inventories is accurate about how my leadership has shown in the past. I haven't had many leadership roles before Webster, but I can notice my leadership coming through in group projects during high school. Despite not being

assigned a "leadership role" in group projects, I tend to be the one to organize everything and plan out what we're going to be doing. This usually only happens if no one does it first. I've also noticed this in recent group projects in my last few semesters of college. This mostly shows my task orientation, but I am generally friendly when doing this and I'm not very strict with people. I make sure to let others express their ideas and make sure that everyone can bring something to the table.

I believe that a leader should be someone who can balance both organization and relationships. A leader should be someone who can be a role model for others, not someone who is just seen as an authority figure. A leader should strive to have good communication with their followers and allow everyone to have a say in what the leader is trying to achieve. A leader should be kind, confident, and open with their feelings. They should be someone that you feel like you can speak to. If you are just using a role of power to be a leader, just that won't make everyone follow you. You also need to have good organizational skills, as it's hard to reach a goal without them. These are all leadership insights that I have and have learned over the course of this semester. However, I do think that leadership style can change depending on the situation. I think the Situational Theory is one of the most important leadership theories, as I believe that my leadership style can change depending on the circumstances that I am in. I may be more task-oriented in a group project than if I'm working in a leadership role in a volunteer group, or something similar to that. I believe that a good leader should be able to adapt to certain situations and change the way they lead to properly fit into that situation. I believe that people should follow me because I am someone who is all about improving one's well-being and becoming a better person. I can balance organization and communication, and I want to hear what everyone is bringing to the table. I am strong in my identity, and I don't let anyone else define who I am. I

strive to help those who can't do the same, specifically those struggling with mental illness or in education. I hope to create an environment that helps people be comfortable with their own identities, and I want everyone to feel like they are important and included.

I believe that everything that I included in my philosophy statement is important because it defines my leadership style and what I want to achieve in my life. I am going to be a Peer Tutor at Webster starting next semester, and I want to be able to help other students in their academics using my leadership style. I think it's important to be relatable and have people know that even if I am a leader, I am still a human being, not an authority figure. This is very important to me, as I find leaders who are all about being in power to be intimidating. I don't want to intimidate others or make others feel like they can't talk to me simply because I am a leader in a certain situation. I've struggled with mental illness throughout my life, mainly anxiety, and I know what it feels like to struggle to ask for help and feel as if I'm not heard. I don't want people to feel the same as I have in the past. I also want to inspire others struggling with anxiety or other mental illnesses to feel like they can be a leader too. For a while, I felt like I couldn't be a leader because of my anxiety, but I know that this isn't the case. I don't want others to feel the same way.

I am a Game Design student here at Webster, and I want to be able to bring my leadership style into my work in the future. I enjoy collaborating and coming up with ideas with the help of others, so I think that this field would be great for me. I am more of an artist and a story writer, so I'd be focusing more on that side of game design, but that organizational aspect of my leadership will still apply in that area. I also hope to create meaningful relationships in my career and have good communication with my coworkers as well. If I do ever end up being a creative director, which I'd love to be, I would mostly show my leadership style there. I don't

want to be an authority figure to those working with me, I want to feel as though my coworkers will all have a say in what kind of story we will be making. I think this is important for any person working in a leadership role in game design to have. Overall, I think that what I have learned about my leadership style in this class will help me reach the goals I have in the future. This class has helped me be more solid in my beliefs and more confident in what I want to achieve. My confidence has grown, and I truly believe that I can be a successful leader now.