



Tips for Building and Strengthening a Leadership through Service Culture

The best way for a CFES school to become a community of service leaders is for CFES Scholars to lead the way! Here are some tips to get you started:

1. **Step Up:** Don't be afraid to get involved in leadership activities, even if you don't initially see yourself as a leader. Leadership requires action, and there are opportunities for everyone.
2. **Be Inclusive:** Human nature tends to make us seek out those who are most like us. But building a culture of leadership requires that student leaders reach out to all students to build effective partnerships and collaborations.
3. **Help Others See Their Leadership Potential:** Others may not see the talents they possess as clearly as you can. Point out others' talents and encourage them to get involved. Reach out to friends, as well as students you don't know. Older Scholars recruiting younger Scholars can be a powerful tool for building leadership teams.
4. **Know Your Own Leadership Style and Skills:** Knowing the kind of leader you are will help you select projects that match your talents. Knowing the skills you possess will allow you to take on roles that you can perform, while exploring others you'd like to learn about.
5. **Be Selective:** Good leaders know just how many projects they can successfully juggle. Taking on too many projects can lead to over-commitment, stress, or burnout. It's better to do a few projects well than to take on more than you can handle.
6. **Learn to Delegate:** The most effective leaders learn to delegate, or give tasks, to other people. Not only does this prevent you from taking on more than you can accomplish, but it also helps others develop their own leadership skills.
7. **Follow Through:** When you make a commitment to a leadership through service project, see it through to completion. Be a positive role model for other aspiring leaders and follow through on your promises.
8. **Create Visibility:** Create a "buzz" around your leadership through service project by publicizing events and successes in your school and local media outlets. Use these outreach opportunities to increase participation and build support for your efforts.
9. **Evaluate Each Project:** When planning a project, determine how you will evaluate its impact. Reflect on the project with those involved to pinpoint strengths and weaknesses. Would you undertake this project again? If so, what might you do differently?
10. **Document Your Own Success:** Create a leadership resume or portfolio by tracking the events you took part in, the results, and your role in making them happen. This documentation will come in handy when it's time to apply for jobs, college, or scholarships.
11. **Be a Leadership Learner:** Become a student of leadership theory and practice. Read about leaders whose acts of service you admire. Explore the many interesting, activity-based workbooks to help you develop your skills. Learn about the roles gender and culture play in shaping leadership beliefs and styles. Lobby your teachers to develop an elective course in student leadership!