L.E.A.D. (Learning, Engaging, Achieving, Diversifying)

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L.E.A.D
Maurice Initiative

We have a passion for making a difference in our community, so when deciding what our focus should be we agreed on woman. Why woman? As we analyzed our surroundings and did some research along with personal experience we realized that we are not equally or even close to being equally represented in our community in regards to leadership positions. From this we took on the challenge of advocating for more woman leadership by encouraging and empowering other woman to step out of their comfort zone and LEAD.

Our project consisted of bi-weekly support groups through winter term. These meetings gave an opportunity for our participants to share their stories with each other. Woman of our lives was our first one. For this activity each woman was to bring something that reminded them of their “shero” or female hero. We all shared who our shero is and why they are our shero. To us this was an important activity because not only did we get to know the participants, but we more than we reminded them of that person that motivates them and inspires. Role models and mentors are key to an individual’s success; our sheros are just that plus so much more. Another focus that stood out was having Mona K-Hinds come and lead Catch 27. Catch 27 is a mini bucket list. We chose Mona K-Hinds because of her involvement with Western Oregon University, her commitment to diversity, her experiences, but most importantly her passion to inspire others. From this activity not only did we leave with a strong set of goals, but we also developed a value statement, to then create our mission statement for life. Lastly we will be having a sharing of our own personal stories shortly, through this activity we hope to learn what other woman go through that makes them who they are, as well as ourselves and for us to really get know our participants. Our main event will be a conference. The main goal behind our conference is to build up personal leadership. We will do this by hosting a variety of workshops such as goals and visualizing, service learning, professionalism, mentoring, among other activities. We hope that by the end woman feel empowered to go out and make a difference.

Our project also has a mentoring component. We ask that all our participants commit to mentoring at least one other young woman through her leadership journey. This is to create the chain of change. To pass on what they have learned. Also as part of this we are planning on going down to Forest Grove to lead an empowerment session with Adelante Chicas, a program designated specifically for young Latina girls to provide them with the support they need to
pursue a higher education. The third component to our project is job shadowing. We are also challenging the participants to set up job shadowing opportunities, each participant is paired up with another so they hold each other not only accountable, but also motivated to complete their job shadows. The project goes beyond just winter term, it goes on for life. This project was just the beginning of our commitment towards woman empowerment.

We are both alike but at the same time very different. Our passion for what we like to do has helped us be more determined with what we were doing. I believe we balanced each other out because our personalities would just help everything make more sense. One of us was more creative while the other one would follow the steps that we had in mind. I feel like there were times when we wanted to go above and beyond with our project but we would have to stop each other from going too far because had to be realistic about the things that we wanted to accomplish in a small period of time. To not give only one person all of the work we would divide according to what we thought was fair and sometimes we would even rotate the task so that we each got the opportunity to do it.

(Maria) From this project I learned that we all have a story that has more power than we think. Our story is what makes us who we are; it is where we find the motivation we need. I learned we are dreamers, we have aspirations I learned that as much as we like to think there is equal opportunity for support for both men and woman this is not accurate. We learned that we need more support for woman on this campus and in general in this world. We learned about each and every single participant. We learned to have an open mind and not make assumptions as there is much more to every individual than what is evident at first sight.

(Maria) My personal growth was immense. I participated in this competition once before, I was not going to participate even though I had a desire to do so, but then I decided I would try again because I know that I can do it. I realized that I am truly passionate about empowering others to take action and bring change to their communities. Through the coordinating of this project I learned how to trust. I tend to be the kind of leaders that just likes to do everything, but this project gave the opportunity to share the responsibility with my friend Sylvia Garcia. I did not know what to expect from our working relationship, but more than just the teamwork development I experienced the development of a friendship. Not only were we coordinators, but were also participants, from every activity, even just thinking about LEAD
makes me feel empowered and motivated. I am happy to say this project helped to find my true passions.

(Sylvia) In the past I have been involved with many things but after being part of lead I feel like it has given me experience and I have finally felt like I can lead a group. Lead has given me the opportunity to grow as a person by being more creative and open minded. It taught me that I am capable of doing way more than I thought I could do. Lead became more than just a project. It showed us ladies feel like we have more supporters to help us achieve our goals. Creating the group and having everyone there show that they care about each and every one of us gave us the reassurance that we are doing the correct thing. Preparing things for lead has been very time consuming and it has been helping me manage my time better to be able to make the project more successful. I myself have even gain courage to continue to do what I love and not just give up after the first time of failing. A leader does not always succeed on the first try.

(Sylvia) Women empowerment is something that as a country is talked about a lot. The issue is that not many people stand up and actually do something to solve it. Us as women have been affected by what society think about women, but we do not like it and that is a reason to why lead means a lot to both of us. We are so valuable, but it is difficult to see that sometimes we don’t see it ourselves because we are so focused on what others see in us. Women are capable of accomplishing many things and that is why lead has taught ladies to value themselves and to know that they can get anywhere in life as long as they stay determined with their goal.

Our purpose has been met; we have begun making the difference. Within our first meetings I know that we have already encouraged many young ladies to stay motivated and determined. Listening to all the feedback we received after the meetings reassures us that our project is much needed. We as LEAD as each other’s support. Our purpose was to support and encourage woman leadership. We believe we had done so. Some of our goals are yet to be met, but this project is one that leaves long lasting impacts, after our conference the girls leave with a commitment to go and support someone else’s journey. That is how it all begins: one person inspiring someone else. This is our first step towards that change we need in this society. We need more woman leadership; we have so many talents, skills, and passions that would be beneficial for every community.

I loved lead and I am extremely glad that we decided to have women empowerment as our project. I know that it went great the times we actually were able to have our meetings. It’s
always a great feeling and motivator to know that our participants are looking forward to our next meeting because they are just as excited as us to know what is next. Another success I would say is how it’s spreading. We decided to begin with fifteen participants as our core group, than we challenged them to bring someone else to the next meeting and that is how we spread the word about LEAD. One of our main disappointments was that we had our dates set for our events and sadly two of the most important were during the snow days. That got us really behind, because we could not continue with our last meeting scheduled on February 6th and most importantly our conference that we had planned for February 8th. It was very upsetting, because we had our things ready to go and our speakers but last minute everything had to be postponed. Even though we were not able to complete our goals in the time given we are still not done. Our conference is still happening and has now been scheduled for Sunday March 9th. We are excited about it and glad that did not give up with L.E.A.D.

Patience is extremely important especially when it feels like things are not coming out as expected. Just know that if it’s something your passionate about you should never give up on it. You have many supporters that are willing to help you just have to look and ask for help. L.E.A.D is already making a change. At the moment it might only be affecting twenty-five girls but that is just now. L.E.A.D is going to continue making a change in the lives of many more ladies. We want to let them know that they are not the only ones trying to achieve goals, become leaders, or be the one to make the change. We want them to know that we have others around us that are there to encourage and motivate us to keep on going.
Our video is uploaded unto YouTube under the name of L.E.A.D WOU. Thank you for your consideration.
Maurice Project Round #2

Analysis due Feb. 28th

Project Timeline: Nov & Dec- Organize! Advertise! Set up! Jan & Feb- Carry it out!

Focus: Woman Empowerment, Leadership, Creating your brand, creating your success

Promote Diversity, diversity awareness

Encourage goal setting

Believe in assets

Support

Network

Strengths

Latinas Dare to Lead

Positive Difference

Teamwork

“True leadership emerges from those whose primary motivation is a desire to help others.”

Servant Leadership

School is foundation for leadership

Woman are majority in world 51%, Including the US

10% worlds income, 2/3 worlds work

What do woman want

More woman in leadership positions!! Connect. Empower, Inspire.

Worth of a woman—other countries

Possible Resources:

- Careers
- Job shadows
- Leadership trainings
  - Talents
• Strengths
  • Public Speaking
  • Money
  • Resume
  • Professionalism
  • Visualization
  • Service

• Support Group
  • Bi Weekly meetings
  • Women of Our Lives (Anonymous stories)
  • Fitness

• Becoming a mentor
  • Commit to mentor one other woman in their journey to leadership
  • Favor por favor

• Website!
  • Post up Info.
  • Post up Inspiration/Motivation
L.E.A.D

- Conference (2/8)
- 3 bi-weekly meetings (1/9, 1/23, 2/6)
- Closing Ceremony (2/21)
- Mentoring
- Job Shadows

Maria To-Do

☐ Contact Megan about location or HL 107!!
☐ Video by 11/20
☐ Woman of our lives (1/9)
☐ Speaker (1/23)
☐ Session #1-Goal setting/visualization/strengths and talents
☐ Contact Megan about Public Speaking 1 hr workshop (3-4 or 4-5) (2/8)
☐ Closing Ceremony (reservations, Certificates)
☐ Registration Sheet
☐ Database
☐ Biography Speakers

Sylvia To-Do List

☐ Put all dates in Calendar
☐ Posters
☐ Start FB page
☐ Speaker (1/23)
☐ Anonymous stories (2/6)
☐ Agenda, Info, Page on our project, Contact Cards
☐ Session #2- job/shadows, mentoring workshop
☐ Speakers Charrise (service), Office (Professionalism) (2/8)

Maria and Sylvia To-Do List

☐ Food Arrangements
☐ Buy Folders, pencils, name tags
☐ Add to this list!

Advertising:

☐ 1/6-1/10 SEP/Diversity
☐ 1/13-1/17 Clubs!
What is the purpose of L.E.A.D?

The purpose of L.E.A.D is to encourage and support more woman leadership in the Western Oregon University campus and community, as well as in the various career fields that the participants are pursuing.

How?

We plan to live out our purpose by leading a variety of activities that help to develop and/or strengthen leadership. These include:

- **Conference (2/8)**
  - At the LEAD conference we will focus on leadership development through workshops and presentations.
    - Goal Setting/Visualizing
    - Public Speaking
    - Servant Leadership
    - Professionalism
    - Mentoring

- **3 bi-weekly meetings (1/9, 1/23,2/6)**
  - The meetings will serve as a support group. As women we have so much in common, yet we have our own story, our stories are what shape who we are. For this reason we would like to have a space for the women participating in our group to share their struggles, dreams, aspirations, inspirations etc. We would like these meetings to serve as motivation to the women participating as well as to help establish a connection between the participants.
    - The three sessions will consist of:
      - Woman of Our Lives-The sharing of your “sheroe”, the woman who is your hero.
      - Motivational Speaker-A woman from the WOU campus.
      - Anonymous Stories-Write your story anonymously. There will be sharing time, if you participants are comfortable.

- **Closing Ceremony (2/21)**
  - We want to acknowledge those who helped to make our project possible, more than that we would like to acknowledge the accomplishments of our participants.

- **Mentoring**
- We will ask each participant to commit to mentoring at least one other young woman in their lives, to help them in their journey to leadership.

- **Job Shadows**
  - Each participant will be paired up with another participant. After discussing their interests they will set up one job shadow for one another in their career of interest.

*Note: Men are welcomed to take part in our activities, although our target is the woman on campus.*

We decided to focus on woman empowerment, because statistically women are underrepresented in a majority of career fields. We believe that we as women have a lot to offer our communities, but we also know that it is often times a struggle to come out of our comfort zones and exercise all of our potential. The 4 or more years that we spend in college play a big role in the development of our leadership. We often see many of our female peers on campus doubting their capability to step up as leaders, sometimes because they are scared. We want to play a role in changing this by focusing on the strengths and talents possessed by every individual.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maria Vargas  
Sylvia Garcia  
LEAD Coordinators