

Passion and Purpose

You were selected to be a student leader, therefore you can safely assume you already possess some leadership skills. Do you see the potential that others see in you? What do you consider your leadership strengths and areas for improvement?

The first step in taking on a new leadership role is being aware of what you do well and knowing what you need to improve upon. Similarly, part of being a team player is where and how you can contribute to the team along with what you hope to learn from others.

Leadership for What Purpose?

Student leaders often struggle with this question. As you develop your own leadership identity you may further define what a leader is and what leadership does. Through experience in formal leadership positions, you begin to identify yourself as a leader. But the question remains: a leader for what purpose? Where do you want to make a difference? How do your values, passions, and gifts form your leadership vision?

Reflection Section

As you contemplate your own leadership passion, vision, and purpose, consider...

- ▲ If I had all the time in the world, how would I spend it? (Don't let potential boundaries stifle your thoughts—money, relationships, time.)
- ▲ Where do I get, or what gives me, energy and motivation?
- ▲ What do I really care about? (people, organizations, relationships, human issues, social issues, etc.)
- ▲ What would people who know me say are my passions and gifts?

Take some time
to keep in Mind ...

...where you are now and where you are going as a leader. When assessing your current leadership skills consider things such as:

- ✓ your leadership strengths
- ✓ past leadership experiences you bring to this role
- ✓ skills you wish you possessed
- ✓ skills you need to enhance and improve

You have a passion, maybe undiscovered, but it exists. And, with that passion you have the potential to be a visionary leader. When the heart (passion) and the head (vision) work together, purposeful leadership can emerge. Consider this equation...

PASSION + VISION = PURPOSEFUL LEADERSHIP

- **Finding Your Passion**—To find your passion consider what brings you joy. What leadership position, job or experience have you had where you felt happiest or most fulfilled? Now break that down and find the core of your joy – that is where your passion lies!
- **Providing Vision**—Leadership is more than just doing, it is thinking, reflecting, imagining, and envisioning. Once you identify a passion you can then create a vision you have for the future, something better or different than it is now. Great leaders are great visionaries who can share their visions with others to create change.
- **Leadership with Purpose**—Purposeful leadership is more than running meetings or recruiting new members. Those things are important to an organization, but leadership with purpose is about creating change or finding where you can best contribute to the greater good. There is a saying that goes, "To lead is to serve and to serve is to lead"—this motto speaks to purposeful leadership.