Peer Leadership 101: Standing on the Shoulders of Ordinary People

Created by: Brian Poser, Associate Director
Presented by: Dominique Lee and Tsering Yangchen

Basic Peer Leadership Training
Bethune College Student Ombuds Services
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“A peer-based, Bethune College resource that provides a multifaceted and comprehensive service to promote student engagement, development, and success during their transitional, middle, and upper years, while empowering Peer Leaders to become agents of positive change.”

Three Areas:
1) Academic
2) Social
3) Leadership
• Summarize the benefits of peer leadership

• Identify your mentoring/leadership strengths & needs

• Understand the roles and responsibilities of a leader and student

• Apply your learning to upcoming leadership experiences

Source: OUAC
Why do you want to be a Peer Leader?
Benefits of Peer Leadership
What do you see as the benefits?
What do you see as the benefits?

**Impact on student experience**

- Creates sense of belonging and support
- Contributes to:
  - academic success
  - relationships/networking
  - sense of community
What do you see as the benefits?

**Impact on YorkU**

- Contributes to a culture of success
- Builds awareness of resources
What does the research say about peer leadership outcomes?

Ferrari (2004)
- Improved academic performance, academic self-efficacy and satisfaction with academic programs

Brown, David and McClendon (1999)
- Increased ability to make a career choice and persistence to achieve goals

Sosik and Godshalk (2005)
- Improved interpersonal communications and psychosocial support

Jacobi (1991)
- Increased maturation and academic responsibility
- Improved time-management

Fox and Stevenson (2006)
- Improved academic performance and social relationships
- Increased acquisition of transferable skills
SOS Programs

Leadership
Leadership connection to SOS

You are motivating and helping students to learn, grow and achieve their goals.

By doing this, you are working to the betterment of your community.
You are in a position whereby your actions have the power to inspire others to:

Dream more,
Learn more,
Do more,
And become more…

John Quincy Adams
Selecting a Peer Leader
In your groups, take a few minutes to discuss and write down what are the responsibilities of a:

LEADER

STUDENT
## Responsibilities of Peer Leaders and Students

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<tr>
<th>LEADER</th>
<th>STUDENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Listen</td>
<td>Active participant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share experiences</td>
<td>Remain open to multiple influences</td>
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<td>Foster skill building</td>
<td>Retain critical faculties</td>
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<td>Refer and network</td>
<td>Own responsibility for success/failure</td>
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<td>Be one of many influences</td>
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Peer Leadership as a reciprocal experience

The best student - Peer Leader relationships are characterized by:

- Honest, two-way exchange
- Respectful debate on differing views
- Critical assessment of ideas
- A leveling of the power gradient
- Mutual and unconditional acceptance
- Respect for limits and boundaries
Why have/be a peer leader?

Why seek the help of a Peer Leader?
What specific traits are you looking for in a Peer Leader?
Reflection Exercise!

➢ Reflect on your own traits, skills and qualities

➢ From the previous list, check all the ones that applies to you!
Final Thoughts

What is one thing you want to take away from your peer leadership experience?