Peer Leadership 101:
Standing on the Shoulders of Ordinary People

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Basic Peer Leadership Training
Bethune College Student Ombuds Services
Sunday, January 22, 2017
Learning Outcomes

By participating in this session, you will be able to:

• 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**
Why do you want to be a Peer Leader?
Part 1: Benefits of Peer Leadership
What do you see as the benefits?

York U  Benefits

Peer Leader

Student
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 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
How does leadership connect to SOS?
Leadership connection to SOS

Leadership

CR  GPM/JF  PASS  PM  PT  SA
Who do we need to connect with? Why?

- Class Representatives
  - Professors
  - Students
  - Master’s Office
  - Other PLs
- Peer Tutors
  - Students
  - CRs
- PASS
  - Professors
  - Students
- Peer Mentors & GPM/JFs
  - Students
  - Other PLs
  - Guest speakers
  - Representatives of other clubs on campus or organizations
- Student Ambassadors
  - Admissions officers
  - Prospective students & parents
  - Students
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.
How does leadership connect to mentoring?
Leadership connection to Mentoring

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
Part 2: Selecting a Peer Leader
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?
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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<thead>
<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>Retain critical faculties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foster skill building</td>
<td>Remain open to multiple influences</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
What is one thing you want to take away from your peer leadership experience?