

Sheridan Smith

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Service Action Proposal

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For my service action proposal, I decided to work with the Military and Veterans Services to discuss ideas for a project. I met with the office's coordinator, Juliann Kasza, and she explained what the office does for students who are current service members or veterans. We talked about several services and volunteer led opportunities that they have in place already to support these students, such as the "Veteran's Day" two mile run that commemorates those who have served. I learned that the purpose of this office was to create a safe space for these students and assist with their needs. As someone who plans to serve in the military, I appreciate what the office is doing for those who are currently serving and who have served.

When speaking with Juliann, the actual idea for my service action proposal came to mind. I originally planned to solely work with veterans for my service action proposal, but it quickly changed. She brought up an event that the office supports called "Suiting Warriors". This event provides high end business professional clothes to veterans who are transitioning into the civilian workforce. Learning about that event reminded me of similar services that NC State provides to students, such as the Career Development Center's professional clothing closet and the "Feed the Pack" program. Considering what we already have on campus, and what we don't have helped me to come up with a project proposal.

One of my strengths talent themes, “restorative”, was shown when developing a proposal for a project that will help more students on campus. Since I arrived at NC State, I learned that almost 10% of the students have experienced homelessness over the past twelve months. That issue bothered me, and I wanted to present a project that will support the students who may be experiencing homelessness or financial insecurity. With the winter months here, I thought of the students who may not have the resources to get the clothes needed to get through the cold seasons. I believe that starting a similar closet to the Career Development Center’s professional clothing closet for winter items will provide the resources for these students.

When developing this proposal, I began to realize that I would need a lot of assistance to bring this project to life. I explained my proposal to several people, and they asked many questions that I don’t have the answer to just yet. I did feel a little overwhelmed, but I am positive that this project can be brought to the campus with the help of a team. Many people gave great suggestions of organizations I can connect with. Experiencing all of this reminded me to not be afraid to ask for help. Originally, I thought this would be an easy enough proposal I could do on my own. It is clear now that I will have to get rid of that fear and ask for all the help I can get.

The key takeaway I have learned from this process is that I find strength in my leadership style by working with others. I am positive that I will be able to lead this project, but only with the support of a community who also supports the project. I can apply this as a Village member by reciprocating the same to those who may ask for my help. Being in the Village has given me the opportunity to build a community that supports each other. I am always willing to offer

assistance to those in the Village. I believe the Village will also provide the same support when bringing this project into action.