

Sheridan Smith

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Self Assessment #2

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I currently belong to the Chancellor's Leadership Development Program (CLDP) through the Shelton Leadership Center, here at NC State. CLDP is a two year program geared towards first generation college students and/or students from rural counties in North Carolina. I am not from a rural country, however, I am a first generation college student. I decided to apply to this program to help me transition into college, network with community leaders, and develop value based leadership skills.

Throughout this program, I will get several opportunities that will help me navigate through college and experience things that the average college student may not get the chance to. For example, I will be able to engage with NC State's Chancellor, Dr. Randy Woodson, and his wife, Mrs. Woodson, on a professional and personal level. CLDP has assigned me to a peer mentor and a mentoring group to help combat the struggles of college, so I won't fall behind or feel lost along the way. I will also get the opportunity to travel domestically and internationally. CLDP also requires cohorts to participate in leadership forums and sessions that will teach us about value based leadership.

Because of what this program offers, I believe CLDP reflects relational leadership and/or will help me demonstrate relational leadership through program activities. The five elements are shown all throughout the scheduled activities and what we've done so far. So far, we've had

scheduled mentoring meetings, visited the Dr. Weodson at his home for dinner, and went to Topsail, Beach for our fall retreat. The fall retreat itself was organized to exhibit all elements of relationship leadership. For example, there were several group activities in which we all collaborated to answer the big picture questions and were given constructive feedback every time to help us understand the purpose of each activity (process). We set achievable goals and expectations for the weekend and the program itself, so that we could work towards something greater during our time in the program (purpose). Everyone was able to share their own thoughts and opinions in a respectful way during every activity we had (inclusion). Everyone respected each other's individuality and often encouraged each other to express themselves (empowerment). We often shared our own individual values and found out that many of us are driven by the closely related moral and ethical values (ethics). Each activity was based solely on developing relationships, so that we can help each other find out our strengths and weaknesses as a leader.

Throughout the weekend, I heard many great perspectives on issues in our society that has helped me figure out what is needed to help "fix" these issues. I didn't realize that some issues were so common until I heard how it has affected many of the cohorts. For example, many of the students have been dealing with negative mental health symptoms and haven't figured out what to do. I am passionate about mental health, so being able to understand their perspective has changed my view. I believe knowing what they feel will help me develop a plan to help more people like them.