**Anthony Luzzi**

**Reflect on what you learned about yourself**:

**Areas of your project you saw as leadership strengths**:

My service action proposal helped service the Raleigh community by providing budding entrepreneurs from minority and low-income backgrounds the knowledge and tools to succeed in this community. While deciding upon what to choose, I found I have the ability to very quickly bond and take great interest in each of the groups I was considering working with. This was a huge advantage because I needed to feel emotionally involved with the project to put my best work into it. Having this skill allowed me to completely commit to my project.

I found that when choosing a partner, relationships with other leaders are extremely important. Since I have been involved in school activities that have a lot of natural leaders, many of my close friends were not only willing to help with my projects but helped me expand my network to find the right partner for me. Leaders tend to talk to a lot of people and holding a vast network gave me a large pool of potential partners to work with.

Constantly being around other leaders has helped me develop my communication skills.

**Areas of growth**:

One of the hardest aspects of this project was keeping all my contacts and dates organized. When dealing with a lot of people it can be hard to properly communicate and delegate. Additionally, scheduling dates is very tricky and time consuming because everyone has busy schedule and it can be hard to find some mutual time to sit down face to face with other people. Thankfully the internet and tools like Skype, Slack and email can alleviate part of this problem by facilitating communication. I had to reschedule my partner meeting three times over email before we had a time, we could both attend.

**How do you need to continue developing as a relational leader in order to implement your proposed service activity in the spring?**

Relational leadership is unique in its pursuit to involve and empower others. However, in order to empower others, a leader must first have a solid grasp of the situation for themselves. Empowering others allows them to have a loose grasp, they don’t need to know absolutely every little detail (this would defeat the purpose of leadership and delegation), but they must be organized so they can make informed decisions in the moment. If leaders are unorganized or uninformed, they won’t have the knowledge necessary to make hard decisions. This is one of the biggest struggles I felt as a leader while working on this project. I am not normally incredibly organized and being behind on work can make deadlines very tight, which compromises the integrity of my decisions. Because I waited longer than I should have for the interview, I felt that my typed proposal was rushed and not my best work. By working speedily, I could have given myself more time to put more effort into the parts of the activity that require critical thinking and sound decision making.

**How can the village help you achieve your leadership development goals in order to implement your activity?**

The village has already taught me a lot about leadership both through classroom instruction and outside activities. However, one of the villages most important tools is the ability to talk to other leaders and bounce your ideas of them. The village has a surplus of great leaders that are extremely friendly, and that community can be used to gauge how god ideas are and gather suggestions for improvement, which makes it invaluable as a tool for leaders and entrepreneurs.

**Does this development connect with your strengths Talent themes**?

On this project I have noticed that I have used the Command and Restorative talents the most. The command trait is a strong leadership trait that enables me to take control of a situation and make decisions. I noticed that when forced to come to critical decisions I usually feel comfortable making decisions and decide based on facts. I feel comfortable sitting in hotseat and making decisions that might be stressful for others. The restorative skill helps people discover areas that can be improved. This skill helped me recognize where I needed to put the most effort and guided my decision making.

**Describe two concrete action steps you can take to accomplish these leadership development needs in order to implement the service activity**.

The first step to building my service action proposal is reaching out to community initiatives that have accomplished similar things. My partner company Consult Your Community, as well as other startup initiators such as District C would be good companies to work with.

The second step to implementing this initiative would be to choose a core group of people to work with me. Similar to choosing band members, I would choose people that I not only work well with, but people that can disagree with me and show me why a different idea might be better than the first one I come up with.

**Describe your overall leadership philosophy you have developed throughout this project**.

In the beginning of class I had never before received instruction on leadership. It was always something that had come naturally and wasn’t something I consciously worked to improve. Now that I know there are methods that allow people to develop to be the best they can be, I have a mindset in improve my leadership and surround myself with other leaders that will make me a stronger person and teach me to empower others.