

Servant Leadership and the Seton Hall Educational Experience

Upon graduating from medical school, new physicians across the world recite a common testament relating to the ethical practice of medicine- the Hippocratic Oath. Besides addressing the common dilemmas of the medical profession, namely the moral treatment of patients, the oath also emphasizes the physician-patient relationship and the collaboration between medical professionals. Above all, the oath reiterates the physician's role as a servant- to his patients, to his colleagues, to the study of medicine, to his family, and to the human race as a whole. This ancient oath, which in many ways serves as the backbone of the practice of medicine, shares much in common with the concept of servant leadership, which seeks to develop leadership through a devotion to service. Just as a great doctor is first seen as a servant to his patients, a great leader must also first be seen as a servant to others. As an aspiring doctor, I am certain that a Seton Hall education is producing excellent physicians and notable leaders, but it is also crucial that a Seton Hall education produce, above all, exemplary servant leaders.

In college, students are seeking to grow academically, spiritually, and personally. Servant leadership combines this desire to change oneself and to grow as a person into a form of leadership based upon service to others. This desire to become a servant leader is inherently present in many college students, so it becomes the responsibility of the student body, of the faculty, of the administration, and of the university community as a whole to work towards making the ideals of servant leadership flourish in the university. On an academic level, servant leadership can be incorporated into the curriculum here at Seton Hall. With the institution of the new College of Arts and Sciences CORE curriculum, freshmen requirements for community service can be expanded to include the entire first year at Seton Hall, thus providing a more meaningful and long-term exposure to service. By leading through example, the faculty and staff

of Seton Hall will further encourage students to act as servant leaders in their future professional lives and to pursue service-oriented professions. Faculty, staff, and administration should continue to work with students in the development and understanding of personal vocation; students should be encouraged to develop their personal strengths, to enhance and to explore their talents, and to grow to understand their individual callings in life. Furthermore, the student body must continue its dedication to service by supporting such on-campus organizations as D.O.V.E. and Habitat for Humanity. More student-run clubs and organizations ought to incorporate philanthropy into their mission, consequently directing more programming towards community service. By thus working to serve and learning to lead, an increasing number of servant leaders will emerge in the university community. This will subsequently result in more extensive student leadership and community involvement, a greater acceptance of and respect for others, a stronger sense of community, and increased collaboration on all fronts of university life.

As an aspiring physician, service has always been an important part of my life, and something that I have been able to further develop while at Seton Hall, whether by taking part in the Division of Volunteer Effort's trip to El Salvador, working as a Resident Assistant in Boland Hall, volunteering at Newton Memorial Hospital since my sophomore year of high school, or helping to organize events and fundraisers for Seton Hall's National Hunger and Homelessness Week initiative through D.O.V.E. and Housing and Residence Life. In order to increase the principles of servant leadership on campus, I plan to continue to demonstrate and to encourage the ideals of servant leadership through the various service-related organizations and events with which I am involved and to continue to bring service-related programming into Seton Hall's residential life. As I plan to go into a service profession, servant leadership will forever be a part of me, and I hope to continue to exemplify it to others for the rest of my life.