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The College Servant Leadership Experience

Servant leadership is a selfless and primary motivation for how to best fulfill a purpose to life. It begins with a genuine desire to serve and to help others; a passion about giving back to the community. It requires deep moral values which leaders incorporate into their service style and which emanate from their actions. It means going beyond lifting those who have fallen, to stabilizing them, giving them hope, direction, and goals so that they will not fall again.

The essence of servant leadership is embraced by many existing programs at Seton Hall, and can be the inspiration for future endeavors. For instance, the community service program required of freshmen should be mandatory for all students, an annual university process with campus wide events. Community service is the grass root level of the servant leadership hierarchy, the foundation of service to the outside community. In that way, charity and compassion for others—those outside the Seton Hall community--become part of the ongoing educational commitment of both students and the university, and is more likely to be engrained by graduation.

Additionally, a formal mentoring program would incorporate servant leadership initiatives that would encourage students to do more to provide peer emotional and spiritual support. A mentoring program would provide a secure support system for students to fall back on and resort to, offer emotional growth and stability, and produce a strong connection with positive peers. The best way to produce a servant leader is to encourage ordinary people to apply their skills and gifts to make the world a better place by assisting others. In this regard, our acts of kindness and compassion become our

legacy. In collaboration with classmates, we can assist each other in the good times and bad. Alumni also can participate in this mentoring program by advising students on how to achieve their personal goals and chosen occupation. In this routine practice of servant leadership, we can become more purposeful and integral members of society and models for Christian caring. A mentoring program would create an expanding network of servant leaders bound by the Seton Hall tradition.

I personally can help to initiate these changes here at Seton Hall by leading by example. I can more extensively integrate community service into my life through the philanthropy of my sorority, the programs for my residents, the lives of my friends and family, and the needs of my university and home communities. I believe that by freely and regularly volunteering my time for community service, I will encourage my classmates to do so also, hence creating community building among residents founded on public works and servant leadership qualities. By initiating a peer mentoring program, I can also strive to inspire change in the Seton Hall community. I can create a reliable network of students like me who are ready and willing to make a combined effort. After graduation, I can offer my worldly experience, expertise, advice, and services to students, to help them to pursue their chosen profession and to encourage them to integrate servant leadership ideals corporate, political, and social arenas.

As a current diplomacy and international relations major, with plans to become a human rights lawyer, I am strongly motivated and determined to abolish human rights evils, gender abuse, governmental and social injustices, and corrupt political and corporate leaders that take advantage of others. I believe I can begin to pursue my dream and objectives at Seton Hall, through existing and recommended programs. I believe each

of us can bring about positive change, one person and one act of kindness at a time. As Gandhi said, we can be the change we want to see in the world. The most positive and lasting change begins with ourselves and what we as individuals are willing to extend to others. In this way, our personal values that drive our acts become the values on which we can improve the world.