



Carloune Benedict's

Portfolio



Personal Brand Statement

I am full time student who helps others learn how to best use their abilities and strengths for any individual who needs help or guidance so they can go out and be the best at what they do and lead others to do the same

Purpose Statement

My purpose is to be a guiding light to others through faith, creativity, collaboration, and relationships to implement change and change the narrative

Vision Statement

To help make something out of nothing, by building from the ground up and making what seems impossible be possible and proving to others there is a way.

Mission Statement

To be constantly growing and bettering myself, to reach my fullest potential in all areas of my life, so I can leave an impact on others and any environment I enter and translating my commitment through my work ethic and overall drive. I want to help others reach their full potential and add value to them so they may be able to accomplish their purpose and leave an impact on the world themselves



Leadership *Philosophy*

I have come to the idea that leadership and being leaders is like being light and salt. Light illuminates the darkness and carves a path; salt makes everything better. Sometimes you have to think to yourself, "If not me, then who? If not now, then when?" You are very much capable. Leadership to me is serving others rather than only leading. It is being an example so others can follow while also inspiring others and creating transformation within them. The goal is to leave something much better than you found it. This is achieved with open communication and trust within the group, creating a safe space for all people.

As a leader, it is important to be able to move with the wind, catch what is thrown at you and make something fantastic out of it. You can do things that seem unreachable. Never give up no matter how hard it gets or however many obstacles get in your way. With your backs against the wall, people will expect you to fail but nothing is impossible. Always give it 110% and once everything is said and done, you will know you gave it your all. Stay positive and hopeful in the times of darkness and be there for one another. Always do what is right, and what is best.

Service Learning *Reflection*

Through the course of LEAD, I have had many opportunities to volunteer in many places. I genuinely enjoy volunteering so volunteering never felt like a chore for me. I have volunteered through many organizations such as i9 sports, UCF Homecoming, VolunteerUCF, Salt@UCF, donation centers, high schools, Zooniverse, and others. Each organization differed from one another and had different lessons that they taught you. I was able to be a social agent and implement change in a hands-on way.

In one volunteering opportunity, I was able to coach flag football to kids ages 6-9 in both the fall and spring semesters. This specific volunteering experience helped me break out of my shell a little bit and helped me better connect the 7 C's of social change for me. Through volunteering at my former high school, I saw firsthand how experience is very essential when doing certain tasks. Going to my high school I got to step up as a leader and show and teach the next group of students how things got done when it came to homecoming because it honestly is a complex process. Many of the kids did not know what they were doing due to it being their first one. A few former SGA students and I got direct instruction and show them what to do since we've had years of experience in setting up for homecoming. Volunteering at SALT taught me lessons on being humble and showed me the disparities of what many people face, and stressed to me how basic needs are essential for all human beings. There are so many things that go into volunteering, it is a layered experience.

Every time I have left a service-learning opportunity, I left with more knowledge and experience than I had coming in. I got to see firsthand how teamwork, communication, collaboration, willingness to help, and much more all interconnect with each other. My service-learning opportunities have molded me into becoming a well rounded person overall. I have different outlooks on certain aspects of life and approach things differently. They have made me a better all-around leader and given me skills I did not have before.

Vision Board



YOU WILL NEVER
INFLUENCE THE
WORLD TRYING TO
BE LIKE IT

DON'T TALK
ABOUT IT BE
ABOUT IT

IF NOT YOU, THEN
WHO
IF NOT NOW THEN
WHEN



THE STRUGGLES ALONG
THE WAY ARE ONLY
MEANT TO SHAPE YOU
FOR YOUR PURPOSE." -
CHADWICK BOSEMAN



Vision Board *Reflection*

The first picture we have is a visual representation of my brain. This picture on my vision board represents the creativity and logic that goes on in my head. I'm a creative person, and it is something that comes naturally to me but sometimes I have to look at things from a realistic viewpoint. Whatever I achieve in life whether that is leadership, career path, or goals all require a sense of practicality and creativity. This plays into my leadership role because leadership requires innovation to get things done, but also being realistic in what is possible, and applying education and facts to solve problems.

The second picture we have here is a picture of salt and light. This is a reference to my faith, and as a leader, I want to be like salt and light. Salt is a preservative and enhances flavor, as a leader I would like to add value to others and help preserve the good that is out in the world, as well as overcome the bad that tries to take us out. Light expands and radiates in all types of directions,. When it comes to leadership, I aspire to be a guiding light for others and help their light shine bright so it may outshine the darkness we have in this world.

A quote that I've recently related to is, "You'll never influence the world, trying to be like it." – and this helps me realize that my path is different from everybody else. I need to stay in my lane, and when I stay in my own lane I am able to accomplish my purpose and help others do the same as well whether that is in life, school-wise, or career wise. We all have a purpose and our purpose is different from one another, but we all work together for the greater good, and if I am not being true to myself or trying to be like others, then I am not doing my part. In order for there to be change, you have to approach it a different way, and this is what leadership is all about.

The third picture represents the type of leadership style I relate to the most. Leadership for me is mostly serving others rather than only leading. This picture to me represents helping others reach their dream, goals, and much more, even if it means I'm missing out. There is something for everybody in this world. What is meant for you, is for you at the end of the day. So, when it comes to helping people, I believe culture (myself included) has to get out of this mindset that we have to compete. One thing about me is I'm going to help you, even when if that means I might "miss out on an opportunity" because what is for me will eventually come to me.

This fourth picture reflects the symbolism of, the "man in the mirror. We can't complain about what is happening in the world and the problems around us if we haven't done anything ourselves. That is when you have look at the man in the mirror and figure out what we can do ourselves to contribute to the solution and by doing this we can care for each other as a society and create unity around the world. This is where the quote, If not you, then who; if not now, then when," comes in. It starts with yourself.

Vision Board *Reflection*

The fifth picture of the hands around the Earth is a representation of unity. The ultimate goal of leadership is to achieve unity. Leadership is getting the people you are leading and working towards one common goal. When we all collaborate and pitch in to do our part and work together we are making the world a better place. I believe as humans we are meant to serve, help, and unite with one another. This is how real change is achieved, through the collaboration of others.

The sixth picture of a girl jumping is a representation of taking a leap of faith. As a leader, we are faced with many decisions that we have to make on the spot, and that requires taking a leap of faith. Fear holds us back from making great decisions that will in fact of an impact. This picture was included because as a leader it is important that we jump off cliffs and take leaps of faith. We never know what is on the other side of us taking that jump, but in order for us to see what is on the other side, we must first jump.

The last picture is a picture of Chadwick Boseman. I chose Chadwick Bozeman, because of the type of person and leader he was. A quote from him states, "The struggles along the way are only meant to shape you for your purpose." As a leader, this is something we must be reminded of continuously. There are many things that can overwhelm us, from the decisions we make to how we lead. As leaders, there will be many failures time and time again, but as leaders, we must take what we learned from our failures and use them to our advantage next time. With each failure comes an opportunity for redemption.

The last element on my board would be the quote, "Don't talk about it, be about it." My middle school math teacher emphasized this to his students and this serves as a reminder to let your actions speak for themselves. Your actions are what people see and remember rather than just your words. As a leader, it points out to me that I can say all I want and talk all I want, but if I don't put actions behind my words; then they're empty. Your actions as a leader are what will be seen first compared to your words.