

Leadership Portfolio

By: Alex Novak

- **An articulation of your personal mission statement.**

- "Live every day to the fullest in order to achieve happiness"

- My mission statement is short and to the point. I believe that achieving happiness is a lifelong journey which I will always be striving for. In order to continue on this journey to happiness, I feel it is necessary to live every day to the fullest.

- **A summary of your leadership style, including key qualities you possess, your strengths and areas for improvement.**

- My leadership style is fairly simple. I do my best to include everyone possible in a group atmosphere so that people want to contribute meaningful input. I do this through my key qualities, which are trustworthiness, honesty, confidence, and most import, my determined mindset. I am very ambitious when leading a group and resort to my favorite quote any time I start to have doubt to remind myself that excuses are not an option. The quote is, "If it's important, you'll find a way. If it's not, you'll find an excuse."

- After recently taking a strengths finder test, I received results showing that my top four strengths are achiever, competitive, responsibility, and command. I agree with the test that these four attributes are my top strengths. Utilizing these strengths is something I continue to work on every day. Unfortunately, these strengths also bring about a few weaknesses. Having strengths such as competitive and responsibility leads me to easily get stressed when things are not going according to plan. Also, whenever I fail or do not fully succeed in either a project or assignment, I hold it above my head for quite a while, rather than get over it quickly and move on. Though these are weaknesses I will have to deal with and work on throughout the future, knowing exactly what my weaknesses are has been half the battle.

• **A listing of the 5 leaders you identify with most, and an explanation of why.**

- Joe Novak
- Diane Novak
- Julius Caesar
- Alexander the Great
- Warren Buffet

- I believe that I identify most with the leaders listed above. I identify with each of these leaders in a different way. The first leader I listed was Joe Novak, my father. I identify closely with his leadership style in the way that he is trustworthy for whatever he does. No matter what, he will keep his word and be as honest and responsible as possible when the stakes are high.
- The second person I identify closely with would be Diane Novak, my mother. Being one of the most driven individuals I know, she is always motivated to do her best in any situation as a leader. Since one of my key leadership traits is to stay determined, I feel that I gained this attribute growing up surrounded by motivated individuals.
- Julius Caesar is the third leader that I feel I match up with fairly well to. The top leadership trait that we share is a competitive mindset to do whatever it takes to win. When leading, both Julius Caesar and myself mirror each other in the fact that we will lead our team to victory to bring happiness.
- Alexander the great, the fourth leader on my list, had multiple qualities that I can relate to. One of his leading qualities was his ambition to fulfill his goals. Those that looked up to Alexander the Great could be sure that he would do everything in his power to get the job done. Not only was he ambitious to achieve his goals, but he was able to do this through his great intelligence. Rather than lead his army with the brute power that they were capable of, he lead them intelligently, which I try to reflect in my leadership situations.
- The fifth and final leader listed is Warren Buffet, a famous investor. Warren Buffet leads with the philosophy that patience pays off and makes investment decisions heavily based on the people running an organization. I see these qualities directly correlating with my leadership traits. Though I am very determined and competitive, I understand when I must be patient and wait for the right opportunities to have the best outcomes when leading. Whenever I have a choice to work with others, I do not always pick the most intelligent, but instead those who I feel that I can work with most efficiently in a happy environment, just as Warren Buffet does.

- **Specific examples of your leadership experience and how you have exhibited specific leadership qualities in each.**

- Team Cluster Projects
 - During the cluster projects, I lead my group through the assignments by taking the role of the devil's advocate. Taking on this role for the group allowed me to show my team ideas from a different viewpoint. This helped everyone become more confident and thorough in their ideas. The leadership quality that I expressed most in this specific situation was full communication, which helped everyone stay on the same page throughout the project.
- Entrepreneurship Consulting Project
 - In one of my entrepreneurship classes, I was able to take the lead role in the project and presentation. I included everyone in the group discussions and matched each individual's part according to what they believed were their strengths. I was also able to keep the team organized and efficient during meetings by staying on the topic at hand.
- Intramural Sports
 - I have been able to take the role as team captain in many intramural sports that I have been a part of, including basketball, flag football, volleyball, and broomball. Leading my team by example as well as including everyone was two of the qualities that I had shown throughout my time as a leader on these teams.
- Boxing Club
 - This group allowed me to take a role as a treasurer and a teacher. The club was ran and taught by students. After being a part of the club for a year, I was able to take a leadership role and help train others. By coaching individuals that came in for the class, I was able to demonstrate key leadership qualities such as motivating and mentoring.

- **A summary of what you see as your differential advantages over others.**

- The most significant differential I see in myself over others would be my willingness to do whatever it takes to win. My biggest strength is my competitive mindset, which helps drive my motivation and determination. If I set a goal, I will do everything possible to achieve it. Another differentiator I see in myself compared to others is my willingness to try and try again, even if I do not succeed the first time. Though I am hard on myself whenever I do fail, it motivates me that much more to try again until I succeed.

• **A 5-year plan with specific goals for each year.**

5 year plan	Specific Goals
1 year	Find an internship Learn to speak Spanish (Conversational) Train for and compete in the Reebok Games Competition (Crossfit) Keep above a 3.6 GPA Join a new organization (Center for Entrepreneurship, community service oriented group) Take on at least one more leadership role in an organization I am a part of
2 year	Find a full time job (Hopefully Consulting) Take time each week help mentor a younger student(s) Train for and compete in the Reebok Games Competition (Crossfit) Maintain a GPA of 3.5 or better until I graduate Continue to teach myself Spanish as well as investment strategies in my spare time
3 year	Do all I can to master at what I do in my career, while having work/life balance Meet as many new people as possible in my line of work to expand my network Train for and compete in the Reebok Games Competition (Crossfit) Travel to another country (Australia) Find a new hobby
4 year	Continue to grow and develop in my career Reflect upon my experience in my career and reevaluate when I will be ready to start my own business Train for and compete in the Reebok Games Competition (Crossfit)
5 year	If ready, begin to develop a business idea/business plan Maintain a work/life balance if I am able to go this direction with my life

- **A summary of what you have given to and taken away from the mentoring process.**
 - The mentoring process that I have currently been involved in with Katie Auel has been a great ongoing process. We have been able to meet multiple times and were able to really get to know each other. After talking about career goals as well as goals we would like to accomplish this year, we were both able to get an understanding of each other's goals. I have been able to get a better feeling for what to expect in the group through the mentoring process and feel much more comfortable asking questions to Katie if I have any questions or concerns. I plan on continuing to develop the mentor/mentee relationship throughout the rest of the time in the program as well as after we both graduate.