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LDRS 450

CLP Interview Reflection

Nearly 3 years ago, I submitted my application for Gonzaga’s Comprehensive Leadership Program. This was in large part thanks to my mother, who sent me a link to the CLP with the words “This looks interesting, you should apply for it” via email, something she still does to this day. A dear friend of mine named Emma Stickney, who I had done ASB with, was in the program at the time and constantly encouraged me to apply from the moment I decided to come here. And so I applied, answering the prompts as to why I wanted to join, someone I admire, something I was passionate about and something they didn’t already know.

Rereading my response to the first question, I think I misunderstood what I would be getting out of the program. While I answered to the three dimensions of self-awareness, relationships with others and community action for the common good, my interpretation of what these three dimensions meant was shallow. I talked about my previous leadership, cause why wouldn’t I and said I thought I was close to where I wanted to be as a leader, which was totally wrong, based off how much I’ve grown and learned in these past three years. What surprised me the most when rereading my response to the first question was my desire to leave a legacy which has not waiver throughout my time here. That desire was a large factor of me proposing the TEDx event, especially as I continued to see my classmates and peers leave their mark on the school. While the response was good enough to get me in, I definitely think I could have dreamt a little bigger.

The second question was about who I see as a leader and I said my father. My father was someone I look up to, and a role model, although I wasn’t the biggest fan of that phrase at the time. Much of what I wrote in that answer stands true today. He still can turn anything into a lesson or some cheesy quote about life. He can strike up and carry a conversation with almost anybody, making it look so effortless that I sometimes get jealous. He’s always there for his family and is such a strong emotional voice in our family. If I had to answer the question again, in this present day, I think I would write a very similar answer, choosing my father as a leader and role model and listing out many of the same qualities I did 3 years ago.

The third prompt was about passion, and I decided to talk about my desire to question things, or the “reality and sanity of things: as a wrote. I was so enamored by the concept of the unknown and questioning ideas that I almost wrote my college essay about paradoxes and how unique and unappreciated they are. I didn’t quite realize have valuable this would be in CLP, but it was pleasant to see that I have always tried to challenge things. I ended the paragraph by saying “the older I grow, the more I realize the significance of listening and questioning” and I would proudly tell freshman Jacob that has not changed.

The fourth prompt was to tell them something that they didn’t know about me. So, I told them about my experience with soccer, and at the time this made sense. I had grown up playing soccer and it was very much part of who I was. But looking at this now, I would answer that question differently. Soccer doesn’t play as big of a role in my life as it once did, and I’ve found new passions and grown to have new areas of depth. That’s good though.

I was no doubt nervous when logging into the zoom call for my CLP interview, despite me putting on a front that I was unbothered and didn’t have something at stake. But as I conversed with the group and got to the three on one interview, it all started to feel natural, like these were my people in a sense and I’d tell myself that the feeling was right. I wouldn’t be here today if not for my dad, who I still call my role model when asked, and for my mother, who still sends me links and articles of all sorts, even on LinkedIn now. I wouldn’t be the person I am today, one that I am proud to be, if not for the people and experiences I’ve had through Gonzaga’s Comprehensive Leadership Program and because my freshman self decided to apply.