

**“Leadership Declarations” from Students of the
Richard Richards Institute Ethical Leadership Program
March 29, 2025**

Leadership lifts all. It is a genuine desire to support and encourage those around you. I have learned that leadership is not selfish but selfless. A leader is an example of authentic love. I know that when I listen intently to others with a pure desire to help them, I am emulating who a true leader should be. Part of leadership is inviting others to be their best self and give their best effort. I have realized that this comes through purposeful actions that allow others to see their potential and supporting them in their chase to achieve their dreams.

I am convinced that by focusing on facilitating and cultivating an environment where respect and dignity flourish, the most effective teamwork can happen. Leaders are proficient at this and enable others to reach their potential through heartfelt validation and encouragement. I am certain that leaders must have a deep care for those who they serve and with whom they serve. They are a part of the team and face the challenges of life with an army of brothers and sisters. Anyone can be a leader, as a leader’s goal should be to uplift and inspire others in the world around them.

– **Kody Korth**

I believe that leadership is based on example. Examples of dedicated, honest and humble individuals that value each and every member. I believe as a leader, you need to enable individual autonomy. This cultivates a desire to master skills, both of strengths and weakness. As autonomy and mastery develop, I know members will develop greater sense of worth and purpose. By allowing individuals to recognize their divine purpose, there will be great unity and accomplishments. I invite you all to lead by example and recognize the value of those that support you.

– **Josh Knight**

I personally believe leadership is an everyday choice. To be a leader one must advance a defined purpose through “GROW”ing individuals and ideas with a focus on Mastery and Autonomy. Leadership is a union of asking the right questions at the right time, actively listening, and taking action to accomplish goals and support others. I believe an effective and strong leader is a valuable figure and that this can be attained by anyone at any level if you choose to lead. I invite you to find the leader inside of YOU!!

– **Boyd Griffins**

I am a leader motivated with genuineness, empathy and advocate for good interpersonal relationships inculcating autonomy, mastery and purpose and creating the environment for self, individual, and organizational fulfillment. I am convinced that helping others grow—providing solutions to challenging situations and achieving expected results makes me a successful leader. *I lead; we execute; we fail; we learn; we win; we celebrate; together we do it!*

- **Kingsley Nimoh**

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Leadership means more than making the most money or climbing the corporate ladder. I firmly believe that a leader is someone who has a vision and goals and is dedicated to achieving said goals. I will be a hard worker and an open-minded individual who treats others with dignity and respect in achieving a common purpose. I believe that autonomy cultivates an environment of creativity. Micromanaging inhibits creativity and will suppress the confidence others have in your abilities.

I will be better at being sincere in my relationships with others. Expressing gratitude frequently makes for a more relatable persona. I invite anyone to express their ideas/opinions with me and hope I can be someone others can rely on. Discussion brings about innovation even in failure. Thought provoking, respectable conversations provide solutions to an exciting, FUN future.

– **Ethan Stryker**

Leadership is dynamic. There isn't one correct way to lead nor should a leader approach every situation and circumstance the same. A leader must be polished through trial, error and experience. What I have learned above all else today is that a good leader cares. Leaders listen to those they interact with in order to understand them and tailor their leadership response to them individually. A good leader encourages. People are more excited about what they're doing when someone is passionate about the work and appreciative of everybody's efforts. That appreciation must be expressed.

A good leader promotes autonomy. Leaders should create an environment that fosters trust and individuality wherein everyone involved feels as though they are valued, respected and needed. Finally, a good leader realizes that without their team, they are nothing. A good leader recognizes the power of unity and collaboration and desires the participation of their whole team. Today I have been inspired and energized by the things we have learned and taught each other. I challenge us to step out of our comfort zones by implementing the things we've learned today, because I know by doing so, we will not only be great leaders but also build up leaders around us.

- **Camden Van Tassell**