Botros Alisandro

CPD 410

February 28th, 2025

Final Learning & Actions

 Throughout this semester I learned a lot of information in these last eight weeks. There was new information that I've learned but there was also topics that I've learned prior to this class but learned a different viewpoint. In this paper I will be talking about the concepts that I've learned that I felt were going to be most useful in my life and how I will be applying them to my life after this class.

 In this class we talked a lot about what is a mensch and how does it relate to this course. A mensch is a leader that many people would work for because they are understanding, unselfish, and compassionate always thinking about others. Mensch leaders show a lot of empathy for their workers because they are very understanding and when one of their colleagues is going through something they are also feel the same pain. This builds a strong connection between because you know that you can trust them and have an open line of communication that is not only about work but also their personal life. A leader that is consider a mensch viewed as a positive influence and very motivating. People strive to be like them because how supporting they are to others and uplifting they can be. Moral reasoning was another topic we learned about and talked about current issues going on in today's world. Many students brought up different issues that were going on in today's world, and my favorite examples was about “how to effectively lead a remote or hybrid team.” As a student I know how difficult it was for teachers to teach a class in front of a computer effectively and help everyone while trying to get assignments done. How moral reasoning played a key role in this was that teacher had to be very understanding that there were students that were having trouble learning remotely and were not in environments were sitting in front of a computer was applicable. Teachers had to be understanding and show empathy for their students also having a clear line of communication with them trying to motivate them in times that were difficult.

 Compassion and relationships are some more qualities of a mensch leader. As I mentioned earlier you build a stronger relationship within your group when you have built an open line oof communication where they can trust you. When you can trust others, you can also show compassion for them, being compassionate is very important because there will be times that some people need a little of motivation during difficult times. So being patience with them and not judging will go a long way. "Be thankful for what you have: you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." This quote by Oprah Winfrey is about gratitude and we learned that it was another key quality of a great leader like herself. A leader that embraces gratitude creates a positive and motivating environment. This mindset also connects with resilience because it helps individuals push through difficult times, and keep you focus on the things you have that others don’t and to be appreciative of it.

 Prior to this class I've learned about why it is important to be understanding and when we talked about compassion and relationships it mentioned that great leaders are understanding. I’ve learned to be understanding because at a young age I've seen a lot, and it made me realize that not everyone goes through the same adversities, but everyone goes through during own problems. My empathy for others has grown because of this class, I was never selfish, but I never understood how others felt in a lot of situations, and I've learned how important it is in having a strong relationship with others. So now when someone is telling me their problems, I look at it from their perspective and try to understand their viewpoint on things. Transferring from Purdue to ODU was a major because we don’t have the same resource Purdue has because they had a lot more money. I've learned to embrace gratitude for this new opportunity that I got as it will help me grow and adapt to a new lifestyle. In two weeks, I will be talking to a group of kids about playing college football from New Hampshire that attended an all-boys camp called Mayhew. In class we talked about what is your calling and I said that I wanted to help kids in my community and show them that it is possible to do whatever you want to do in life and a couple days ago I get an email asking me to talk to younger kids. I will be applying what I've learned in class to these younger kids from a leader standpoint, by being honest and explain my journey from New Hampshire to now and how it was not very easy especially when you hear that you cannot play division one football or you’re from New Hampshire. Being resilience is very important because despite what others say about you, you have to have the mindset that you will be the difference and can accomplish whatever you want.

 In conclusion, these last eight weeks have gone by fast, but a lot of information was learned. This class has taught me in-depth the meaning of moral reasoning, gratitude, resilience, compassion, and empathy. These lessons will guide me in my future endeavors, especially in mentoring and inspiring younger individuals. I’m excited to share my experiences and the insights I’ve gained with others, helping them recognize that challenges can be overcome with the right mindset and determination. I am now more prepared to lead with understanding and compassion in all aspects of life.

Reference

San Francisco Day School. (2017, May 11). *On being a mensch*. The Brandeis School of San Francisco. https://www.sfbrandeis.org/news-detail?pk=932379

Thresher, S. (2024, December 20). *5 leadership challenges to address for 2025*. Talogy. https://talogy.com/en/blog/5-leadership-challenges-to-address-in-2025/

Harvard Business School Online. (2019, November 14). *8 Essential Leadership Communication Skills: HBS Online*. Business Insights Blog. https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/leadership-communication?utm\_source=chatgpt.com

BrainyQuote. (n.d.). *Oprah Winfrey - be thankful for what you have; you’ll end...* Oprah Winfrey Quotes. https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/oprah\_winfrey\_163087