

Future Leaders Academy – Leadership Workshop Feb 2022



Ryan Goulart



LaCresia King

With the Future Leaders Academy officially welcoming its (great) first Academy members on January 22nd, we wanted to know more about leadership workshop facilitators Ryan Goulart and LaCresia King and their passions for this new initiative of t2pRI.

t2pRI: Tell us about the Future Leaders Academy's leadership workshop's 5-module design. What are the primary goals?

LaCresia: I feel so honored to be co-facilitating these sessions along with Ryan. I felt so inspired and motivated following our first session! One of my main goals as a facilitator is to create a space for all to learn, grow, and develop skills to become confident, strong, and knowledgeable leaders. This content revolves around identifying our values and how those values guide our leadership.

Ryan: The Future Leaders Academy is designed to take participants through emotional, moral and purposeful content in an accessible way that scales in application to their life. As one of the board members, Doug Lennick, often says “If the why isn’t compelling, the what and how don’t matter”. Beginning with why leadership matters sets context to how each learner can begin to notice their own leadership in their daily lives.

t2pRI: You have such great rapport as facilitators. I think everyone in the 'room' is fascinated by your presence and appreciates your inclusiveness. Certainly, no one who's bemoaned a virtual meeting malaise has ever been in a workshop you've facilitated. What motivates you to serve as Future Leaders Academy workshop facilitator?

Ryan: As anyone who has worked or participated on a team that ‘clicks’ has experienced, chemistry matters. While LaCresia and I come from different backgrounds, we both want to enhance people’s experience. Having been on the receiving end of people taking the time and energy to develop me this is an opportunity to do the same for others.

LaCresia: I mentioned it briefly during session one, but Ryan and I are brother and sister in law! Ryan is married to Joanie, and I am married to Joanie's sister, Mary! So, we are family! Both of our birthdays are April 17th, and we both had babies recently so life has felt really aligned, which I think contributes to the rapport we have!

My motivation for doing this work is very personal. Growing up in poverty I needed a great deal of assistance to develop and nurture my skills as a future leader. I lacked confidence, and was unsure I was capable of being in a leadership role, and desired to be in connection with others that could teach me skills I needed to accomplish some pretty big goals I hoped to achieve. I have absolutely not perfected the craft of being a leader, but I really understand the leadership styles I don't want to portray and feel much more confident in my abilities to do great work with people.

t2pRI: Have you had a mentor? If so, who were they and how have they impacted your life?

LaCresia: I was lucky enough to have various mentors throughout my life, but my most memorable mentor is Ricka Kohnstamm! Ricka had, and continues to have a profound impact on my life. She supported me through the entire college process, has helped me navigate decisions regarding not only my career, but my personal life as well. I am so lucky to have her support and owe her years of appreciation.

Ryan: There have been many mentors in my life whether they have known it or not. I have directly benefited from people taking interest in supporting me. On the leadership front, t2pRI Board Chair Kris Petersen has provided great mentorship. Among the many skills and insights I have learned from her has been how to meet people where they are at and provide insight on how what they are experiencing relates to the big picture.

t2pRI: Why is the mentorship an important component of the Future Leaders Academy?

LaCresia: As a society we have placed emphasis on navigating the world with an individualistic lens. While it is important to be self-motivated, it is also important to have support and encouragement along the way. Mentors listen without judgment to your biggest dreams and work alongside you to accomplish those dreams. They provide support along the way and offer suggestions and varying perspectives as well!

Ryan: As anyone who has held leadership positions can attest, learning how to be leader is one thing, being a leader is another. Having someone to talk and support you makes a huge difference especially when one is experiencing the loneliness that comes with leadership. This has a compounding effect to inspiring current Future Leaders Academy participants to use newly developed skills to develop others too.

t2pRI: Pro-tip for running a fun-filled workshop on a Saturday morning?

Ryan: Coffee and listening to fun music on the way to the office in the car!

LaCresia: Coffee, water, colorful pens to take notes, and a donut!

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The Future Leaders Academy continues its monthly, virtual workshop sessions on Saturday, February 19th. Mentors will join Saturday workshop sessions on March 19th, April 23rd, May 21st, as well as the Celebration and Mentorship Kick-off Event on June 18th.

Learn more about the [Future Leaders Academy](#) here

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