

July 2023



Pictured: Future Leaders, Mentors, Leadership Workshop facilitators, think2perform Research Institute board members, executive director, and community members.

Celebrating Dedicated Young Leaders: First Generation of Future Leaders Academy Graduates

Congratulations to the inaugural cohort of Future Leaders who graduated from the Future Leaders Academy in June. And thank you to the Mentors who supported these leaders on their journeys. It has been exciting and rewarding to watch these Future Leaders hone the skills that form the basis of effective leadership and life-long success.

The 18-month program is intentionally designed to help students become exceptional, emotionally intelligent leaders in their schools, their communities, and the workplace. Over five months of leadership training and twelve months of mentorship, these dedicated young leaders learned and practiced emotional intelligence skills and moral intelligence skills. They

also learned strategies for setting and achieving goals aligned with their values today and in the future.

As we move into the mentorship phase of our second cohort and open applications for our third Future Leaders Academy cohort to start in January 2024, we invited our graduating Future Leaders and Future Leaders Academy Mentors to share thoughts about their experiences:

"During my time at Future Leaders Academy, I learned fundamental values that are at the core of being an emotionally and morally intelligent leader, which helped me become a better student, leader, and human. I gained a new understanding of what it means to be a leader, and a purposeful individual through this program. Through the program's direction and my mentor's support, I've been able to accomplish some truly meaningful goals over the last 17 months that have shaped my future." Ella Fix, Future Leader

"The way this program instills the priority of values and the lessons it teaches, will come to serve all of us in the future." Mason Bierbaum, Future Leader

"The most important thing I learned from my mentoring relationship had to do with dealing with my own failures. As my mentee was making the challenging transition from high school to college, we talked about how the difficulties of that transition are a major part of his education. I shared some personal instances of when I struggled. After doing that, I reflected on those

times and reframed those failures because I realized how much I had grown after those experiences.” Don MacPherson, FLA Mentor

“I feel as if I’ve learned a lot through the time of this program and am able to use it going forward in my life.” Gabe Schmidt, Future Leader

“I was very impressed with my mentee’s courage, curiosity, willingness to be uncomfortable and focus on switching course when she knew it wasn’t right for her. I don’t know that I would have been able to do that at her age. Very exciting!” Kris Petersen, FLA Mentor

“I felt very satisfied with the entire set up of the program, especially working on our goals and then putting them into action with our mentors. I felt like I accomplished a ton in the span of this year getting my goals done with the help of my mentor, especially with her holding me accountable.”

Anonymous Future Leader

“I was impressed by how everyone with the program and the leadership knew my mentee and took time to really connect with him (and me!). It's great to see everyone's passion and commitment.” Anonymous FLA Mentor

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