



## Letter from the Executive Director

"What I feel I can do is help people become aware of how pervasive and extensive the arts are, how they affect each of us in our daily lives — what kind of [buildings] we live in, what kind of clothes we wear, what we see with our eyes. We are often blind to the beautiful things around us. What I'm mostly concerned about is how often we're blind to our own talent. I think that within each human being there is a creative spirit." — Joan Mondale

How did you develop an awareness of your creative spirit? Did someone in your life help you to see, feel and act on that spirit (for an expansively imagined expression of art that is your life)?

Our Future Leaders Academy mentors fulfill a deeply special role in how we realize our mission to inspire and engage current and emerging leaders. Our Future Leaders — young people in high school and college — are leaders already (as you can see in our feature stories introducing Elijah Arnett last month and Hawa Abdella this month) who are emerging as leaders in new and exciting ways throughout the 18-month Future Leaders Academy.

In last month's newsletter you learned about Mentor Sarah Oknick and her gift of connecting with others as mentor, design professional, and community member. This month, we've introduced Mentor Magarita Jules, who brings a wealth of experience as a mentor to connecting deeply and meaningfully with Future Leader Hawa Abdella on her journey as a dual enrolled high school and college student, daughter and general go-getter.

The Future Leaders Academy's design and content is grounded in our Leadership Workshop facilitator's (namely, Ryan Goulart's) years of experience guiding professionals in their own journeys as leaders, family members, and fallible humans with goals, ideals, and values.

Our Mentors bring their full selves to their role as Mentor, and you see how their openness, attentiveness, and vulnerability matters to Future Leaders. I think the best Mentors are lifelong learners, who know what they know and have a passion for listening, and to learning more, with intentionality.

We're always striving to learn and grow at think2perform Research Institute and in the next few months we're excited to introduce wonderful new members of our Board of Directors, new Special Advisors to our research mission, and the important role of the new Future Leaders Academy Council.

Plus, in November, you'll meet another inspiring Future Leader.

Until then, we'll do our best to keep moving onward and upward at a pace that's right for the moment, with an eye on today and tomorrow, that inspires both personal and public good. We wish you the same. – Brian Hammer

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