

These comments were collected almost ten months AFTER the students attended the August 2022 Student Leadership Academy.

I loved getting to know so many great outgoing people. The Service Leadership Academy made a huge impact on my life and I will forever be thankful for this opportunity!

I brought ideas to our student council that I learned from other schools.

I think that talking to people and stepping out of my comfort zone helped me to grow.

"You are not special" Even though this message sounded harsh at first, it helped me and others realize I do not have to go through my problems alone. I have since gotten help.

I have since made it a priority to reach out and help more people, and I have been happier.

I love how many teenagers attended and how much we all bonded. I love the fact that we have fun but we learn about helping others.

A small idea can impact a whole community for the better.

Throughout this year, I have tried to stay patient with others and keep in mind that I don't know what's going on in their personal life.

"Nobody is looking at you!" This has stuck with me since I first heard it. And I am so grateful it has! It has helped me not care as much on what others think about me! Another thing that has stuck with me was actively listening and trying not to butt in. I am definitely a better listener.

Being willing to listen and knowing when to step up and help a team or friend.

I love the fact that I was able to connect with people from all over.

My favorite parts were volunteering at the St. Francis House and hearing the life stories/advice that Kim and Gregg gave. I still think about them ALL the time.

Leaders lead. It's okay to step out of your comfort zone because once you do, the world seems like a whole different place and you don't feel so small in it because you are making a difference no matter how big or small.

I became a much better at conversations and not caring what people thought. I am more kind and courageous.

We already had a fundraising idea going into the academy, but it never would have had thought put into it or actually happened without the academy.

I really liked the "lesson" that you guys gave on how to be a good conversationalist and to efficiently talk to someone. I find myself looking back on that lesson almost daily.

Leaders lead. Say yes to things. Giving back to others is one of the most important things you can do in your life.

Go out on an adventure as you can always come back home and make your home/state better.

It was awesome to make new friends - it makes me feel a lot better about college.

I enjoyed when people of different careers around Sioux Falls came, told us about themselves, and allowed us to ask them questions. This connection led me to have the opportunity to shadow a firm.

Listening to the speakers outline their steps to success helped me form a plan for my future.

I became more involved in sharing ideas to our student council advisor as how to improve our school culture.

I definitely worked to use my voice more and to stand up for what I know is right.

When we created and brainstormed service project ideas, one student brought up a Caring Closet. I was an officer in NHS this year and when we had our first meeting I told everyone that our school needed a place where kids could receive clothes or other essentials. My friends and I were assigned the project and now we have one in our school.

The Service Learning Academy was fun, impactful, and inspiring. I became a better leader and a better person.