Statement of Personal Philosophy

Seminar for Public Administration – PUA-550

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My primary goal in Public Administration is to become a leader that is known for skillfulness in creativity and innovation. My previous educational background in fine arts has taught me that there is room for improvement in everything. I first began to develop an interest for leadership while working in the food service industry. At any given day, I was under the leadership of any one of a number of managers. Each individual manager had his or her own style of leadership. Some were effective while others were less effective. It was also generally more pleasant to work with some rather than others. I found this to be both puzzling and interesting. I often pondered the decisions that I would make in a leadership role and how others would respond accordingly.

I graduated from McDaniel College in 2006 with a degree in Art. A background in the fine arts has honed my skills as a creative individual. It was during this time that I had sought much of my artistic inspiration via the scientific method. The aspects of the scientific method that influence my artwork include observation, investigation, hypothesis, and fact. Generally speaking, observations are subject to biases experienced by the observer (Cummings & Worley, 2009). However, I find that the other three parts of the scientific method create balance. I have also found that this sequence of tasks is not only useful in making art, it as also useful in the search to make things better. While I have a strong passion for the arts, particularly graphic design, I quickly learned that my creativity would often be bound by the parameters of a client. This led me to exploring other options that would better reflect my philosophy.

Aside from art, I also have an interest for current news and events. As a stockholder in various publicly traded companies, I find it strongly beneficial to remain up-to-date on things that might influence companies’ stock values. This is an aspect that aligns closely with external awareness, a subcategory of leading change. The news media often tends to criticize government
and organizational actions, policies, and spending. What I find most fascinating about this is how and why governments and organizations come to reach particular solutions. Additionally, whether or not I agree with a specific solution or policy, I often ponder if and how it could have been made better.

My entrance into the Public Administration program at McDaniel College was largely due to proper circumstance and timing. McDaniel first offered the Public Administration program in 2012. The thought of an online program appealed to me, not only for its convenience to fit into my schedule, but also for its potential to make me more accountable for my own learning. I viewed this as an opportunity to not only test my mind, but my self-discipline as well. However, the aspect of this program that appealed to me most was its ability to teach me how to lead others more effectively. Much of this was a result of past and present managerial experiences.

My first leadership experience occurred during my employment in the food service industry when I had been promoted to the position of team leader. However, this leadership role was a bit of a challenging experience. I had overestimated the roles of compassion, customer service, technical credibility, and creativity while underestimating the roles of conflict management, developing others, and team building. Additionally, I had struggled with commanding accountability over others. However, my shortcomings in these areas only led to resilience. I felt that my inner drive for creativity and innovation was too much to waste and it is something that I wish to share with others.

Throughout the course of this program, my aim is to develop leadership skills that will make me a valuable and competitive candidate for both present and future job positions. I also aspire to further develop an individualized leadership style that reflects my preference toward
leading change. Extraversion and competitiveness are both traits that can shape the perception of a leader (Ames & Flynn, 2007). While this only suggests the importance of certain traits, I feel that it is much more important to address and resolve any potential leadership shortcomings. Assertiveness, for example, is often one of the qualities that people look for in a leader (Santora, 2007). During the course of this program, I wanted to place particular emphasis within the areas of team building, conflict management, and accountability. These are all areas in which I felt that I could benefit the most from by enrolling in this program. I am very privy to the benefits of a team environment. I feel strongly that a leader cannot function without a team, and that a team cannot function without a leader.
References

