

OMELE EDEH



### *About Me*

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### *Mission Statement*

I believe in hard work. I want to be a leader that is passionate about making the world a better place.  
"Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives – choice, not chance, determines your destiny." Aristotle  
"Every mountain top is within reach if you just keep climbing." Barry Finlay

## *Honors Program Mission Statement*

The mission of the Honors Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato is to create future leaders, researchers and global citizens by providing high ability and motivated students with exceptional learning opportunities, mentoring relationships, and a community of scholars that foster their development as future leaders in a global society.

### ***Leadership***

Upon graduation, honors students will have demonstrated the ability to utilize personal leadership values and guide groups toward a common goal.

### ***Research***

Upon graduation, honors students will have demonstrated the ability to exhibit information literacy skills, synthesize and integrate ideas, produce original research or creative works, and contribute to knowledge.

### ***Global Citizenship***

Upon graduation, honors students will have demonstrated the ability to exhibit second language and communication competencies and exhibit cultural competency and awareness

<http://www.mnsu.edu/honors>



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### Synthesizing Essay

The position of a leader is a very important one because when you do not lead well, you do not only run the risk of misleading yourself but also others that are following you. In my Honors 401 "Exploring Personal Leadership through Social Change-Reflection" class, I started discovering how I can best lead as well as my own personal leadership philosophy that will help me execute my leadership skills better. I had opportunities to practice what I learned in my daily life by mentoring two international students in my junior year. I was an authority figure in their lives and they followed my instructions. This three-month experience opened my eyes to the fact that being a leader did not necessarily mean that the students had to follow all my orders. I had to learn that no matter who you are leading, the leader needs to find a balance between understanding the opinions of others and doing what the leader thinks is best. Listening and being open to ideas were two skills I learned through that process. I learned the skill of listening by being intentional about getting their opinions and giving room to decide the best decision for the team. By leading these two international students, I discovered how important it is to take initiative as a leader. At first, I did not realize this as I expected them to do all that was required of them. However, I started being disappointed as they did not take that initiative. I realized I needed to take the initiative to remind them of our meetings and that became a game changer for me. Their attendance improved, and we were more productive as a result.

My personal leadership philosophy is servant leadership. I believe as a leader I should be able impact my community, followers and the world around me. One way to do this, is to be able to serve other people. As an example, I am part of the team that packs food at "Feed My Starving Children". I started volunteering there because I knew that being a leader for me is mainly by serving other people whether in a non-profit organization such as FMSC or with other for-profit organizations.

I am working with Student Activities on campus as a student worker serving the Nontraditional students. Being a resource person to these groups of students has helped me understand the value of being represented. I remember a student telling me in one of our events that she felt happy that the school is providing the resources to help the nontraditional students on campus feel at home in college and she encouraged me to keep pushing. Being part of the team that makes this happen makes me feel the utmost joy and confirms my idea of a leader being one who serves others rather than being served.

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The importance of being competent in research cannot be over-emphasized. There are many information out there and it takes a good skill to be able to find credible information that will help one in advancing their knowledge rather than getting informed on other non-credible information out there. In writing research papers, I have learned how to find credible information that will not only help me now but be of a great use in the future. My first paper in college was an augmentative essay in my English Composition class that I had to use two different articles to write. Although these books were recommended by my professor, I learned that before using a source, one needs to read about the author and the credibility of that author before deciding on using the information.

I did a research paper on cyberbullying in my English Composition class and it was the beginning of learning how to cite sources and learning about the illegality of plagiarism. This was really important to me because plagiarism to me then meant that it is only limited to when you quote something verbatim. I understood from doing this research that whether quoting someone verbatim, paraphrasing and or using an idea other than your own without giving credit is all considered plagiarism. Since then I have realized that I have to be intentional about giving credits to the work of others. In this research, I had to use more than two sources to fully understand cyberbullying, the numerous effects and how parents or caretakers can help a child that is being bullied. I gained the experience of being able to access government documents that are public but may not be easily accessed without the necessary knowledge of where to find such information. I also had to ask a librarian for help in getting documents that I used in the findings of my research.

I am in the process of doing an original research in conflict resolution with Dr. Battah in the International Relations department. I took International Conflict Resolution class with him in my junior year and this sparked my interest in doing this research. The importance of conflict resolution cannot be over-emphasized, and it is important to me because I am passionate about world peace. In my research, I am going to find whether or not conflict resolution can be taught, how effective it is to include conflict resolution in the school system. Knowing this will be of a great advantage to schools as most schools will be interested in advancing the knowledge of their students.

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### Synthesizing Essay

Being globally competent is more important now than ever since our society is becoming more complex. To be able to do this, it is necessary to be self-aware, have the knowledge and understanding of people from different places and to be able to actively communicate. Being aware of yourself is one thing, but being aware of others and your environment is another level of importance. I was able to get better at being aware of my environment by being open minded and intentional about the people I come across every day and in my community. I have been able to appreciate differences in my community and how that could be a strength for me.

While I was an assistant coach at Girls on the Run, I worked with kids from different backgrounds and culture. Being aware of their differences opened ways for me to connect with each kid and help them grow to be the best version of themselves. On several occasions, one of the girls would show or talk about their feelings and I learned to validate those feelings instead of pushing them away. So, being empathetic is important, and it is a great skill to becoming a global citizen. I remember one of the girls told me she was a Muslim during our conversation, and because I know quite a bit about the religion, I greeted her in Arabic. I could not believe how happy she was! The most important lesson I learned from that interaction is that small gestures and validations like that can go a long way in making an impact on the world. This also ties to the importance of having the knowledge of different cultures. Learning about cultures or religions other than the one you are familiar with may carve a way for more opportunities to impact the world as a global citizen should. I have had some great experiences serving and working with people from different places, which ultimately helped me to gain deep understanding about them and their way of life. Communicating with other people from other cultures is another great attribute of a global citizen. In my Spanish class, I learned the language to some extent and also the culture of the Spanish people. This helped me appreciate their culture and also respect those cultures I would have not known existed if I had not learned about them in class. Taking this class created an opportunity for me talk with some of my Spanish speaking friends. I understood from such conversations that most people will rather have you ask questions about them than assuming something about their culture or the dos and don'ts of the community you are serving. Understanding that this attitude creates a better forum to make the change you would like to see in society. Something as little as that greeting gesture made this young lady to be free to ask for more help, which resulted in me being the global citizen I want to be. I am not only responsible to people with the same belief system or way of life as me, but everyone. I can proudly say even though I still have a lot to learn, I have come a long way and I have taken all the opportunities I can to become a better global citizen. I am looking forward to the other experiences I will have in my life that will teach me more about being open and accepting other cultures.

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**My resume**



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