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Andreea Bogdan



Welcome

Hello! My name is Andreea Bogdan, and I am an international student from Italy, currently attending Minnesota State University, Mankato. I am majoring in International Relations and double minoring in International Business and Computer Technology.

Personal Mission Statement

My biggest goal in life is personal growth, which involves understanding the meaning and the impact that our experiences have on our lives. This will give me the chance to become aware of my strengths and work on my weaknesses.

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Honors Program



MSU Honors Program

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.

The Honors program has pushed me out of my comfort zone, and I explored skills that I never thought I had. It helped me grow personally and professionally as I reflected on each and every experience I had during my college career. I was able to find an internship, and the global citizenship competency really motivated me to look for an internship in a country I was not familiar with. I expanded my perspective by looking for internships in Germany, and my positive mindset helped me achieve it. I always recommend the Honors Program to all my peers who want to make their college experience an outstanding and memorable one.

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Leadership



Leadership

The Honors Program competencies have helped me grow as a person, and expand my horizons on both values and teams in leadership. I have experienced extraordinary growth in leadership as I went from thinking I had no leadership skills to actively leading a community of first-year students.

My first step into leadership was identifying my own values through the StrengthsFinder Assessment in my [Intro to Honors](#) class. I then applied those values in the [Mentorship](#) program, which was a very eye-opening experience for me, as I sharpened my consciousness of self. Not only did the Mentorship program help me have a clear idea of my strengths and weaknesses, but it also served as the stepping stone for the teams competency. Identifying my strengths as achiever, individualization, harmony, input, and learner, helped me become more self-aware. I put into practice my strength as an achiever as I motivated my mentee to apply for the Learning Community Coordinator position in order for her to reach new goals.

The awareness of my leadership skills gave me the confidence to apply for the [Community Advisor](#) position, where I was able to put into practice my values and learn more about what it means to be in a team. As I was observing my supervisors, I started identifying leadership values that I considered effective, such as punctuality, reliability, efficiency and consistency, and critiquing some leadership values that I did not identify with, such as being self-centered and being only focused on work. Working closely with my colleagues, I started making good use of my strengths to work with others towards a common goal. For example, knowing that empathy is one of my strengths, I interacted directly with the residents involved in policy violations, and let my colleagues use their communication strengths to report incidents to supervisors.

To push my leadership skills even further, I applied my own leadership philosophy to train my new colleagues during my 2018 summer [internship](#). This is based on the idea that listening is a key point when it comes to winning friends and making connections. This brought incredible benefits to me as a person, and I will use this knowledge in my future job setting as a Business Developer. I will try to actively listen to the other side in order to make sound judgments and decisions. In addition, I learned how to give and receive constructive criticism, and the importance of making connections in the office. Even though my position will not require certain tasks such as database programming, having good connections will be helpful when working on independent projects. Listening is definitely key when making connections: I learned that in order to win friends, we need to make them feel important, and giving them our attention is one way to do so.

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Research



Research

Before joining the Honors Program, my research skills were very limited and I was not aware of the importance of ethical research. I have experienced extraordinary growth in this competency, and the Honors Program helped me reflect on my development.

My first step into research was a **Persuasive Article** I wrote in my English 100 class. I was able to organize others' ideas to convince an audience to do a particular task. I argued that multilingual people are more open-minded, and parents should teach their children more than one language. I learned scholarly and journal articles are some of the most credible sources, and the importance of ethical research. This knowledge led me to conducting an extensive research project for one of my major classes, **International Organization**. In this project, I researched the challenges faced by the Middle Eastern countries in relation to the refugee crisis, and its negative effects on Jordan and Turkey. I was able to use the different sources effectively and ethically in order to come up with an interesting topic about which most people are not aware. I developed the ability to state my own perspective on the topic, as my topic challenged the existing literature review. In order to develop creative work, I included sources such as local people and refugees' stories, as well as political, economic, educational, and socio-cultural reviews.

This new knowledge helped me even further when I had to conduct a cross-cultural study in my IBUS 448 class. This group project about conducting **Business in Greece**, assessed the cultural dimensions that need to be considered to successfully conduct business in Greece, and examined the differences in business practices between the United States and Greece. This project was original, and it extended the knowledge of my disciplines. I came across multiple subjects such as business, marketing, psychology, and consumer behavior, and I was able to gather the most relevant information for my research. This project was challenging because I had to include a well-articulated table of contents, as well as sources such as books. I used everything I learned so far to conduct my last research paper in my Honors **Psychology** class during the Spring 2019. This project helped me develop the dissemination of results and achieve creative research by researching a topic that interested me and personalizing it to an audience of college students. I was able to demonstrate how the use of academic resources and information processing techniques can maximize students' learning potential so they can get the best out of their college experience by overcoming obstacles.

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Global Citizenship



Global Citizenship

My first introduction to global citizenship was a **French Literature** class I took during freshman year. Through films and presentations, I learned that there are many connections between my Italian culture and the French one. For example, building a relationship in France is important but can take time, just like in Italy. When trying to explain my own culture to others, I learned that there isn't just one Italian culture, but there are cultural differences between the north and the south of the country. For example, most regions in the north of Italy value time and work, while most southern regions value family and traditions. Acknowledging this helped me identify with the south of Italy because I realize that I prioritize family in most aspects of my life.

Learning about regional differences in culture in my French class, helped me give more meaning to my **trip to Colombia**. Not only are there different cultures within Colombia, but each city has its own unique set of values and traditions. Bogota, the capital, values work similarly to the north of Italy. In Medellin however, there is a culture of enjoying life and people tend to be more restorative by taking care of their well-being through activities such as yoga and meditation. By interacting with others in Spanish, I noticed that most Colombians often talk over one another, with many interruptions, similar to Italians. From the perspective of an American, this can be considered quite unpolite, but from the perspective of a Colombian or an Italian this is just one way to reinforce their point and convince the person they are talking to.

Learning to observe people's behavior from different perspectives in Colombia, helped me be more mindful during my time in **Germany**. From the very beginning I noticed the fact that Germans enjoy quietness and privacy, so they often close their doors. In Italy, a closed door means that you are not invited in and therefore you should not disturb. However, I learned that Germans will be happy to receive people in if they knock on the door because for them, a closed door doesn't necessarily mean that the person cannot be disturbed. Being mindful made me realize that something that is true to me is not necessarily true to another, and vice versa. While in Germany, I was also able to practice my German skills, which I found extremely challenging due to the complexity of the grammar. I decided to listen to YouTube videos in German for beginners, which helped me pick up many new words and sayings.

My **experience in the USA** is what I consider one of the most valuable learning outcomes in global citizenship. I utilized all that I had learned up to that point such as identifying different cultures within one country, looking at things from a plurality of perspectives, and listening as a key to improving any language skills. Through extended practice of English, I learned the impact of this language at the individual and group level in relation to respect. Americans give a lot of importance to respect, and language is the primary way of conveying it: for example, I learned the importance of asking questions that are gender inclusive, such as "How are you all doing?" instead of "How are you guys doing?". Gender inclusiveness is a very controversial topic in my culture and most Italians do not challenge the words they use to show respect to any minority groups.

In conclusion, all that I learned about global citizenship has helped me understand that being a global citizen goes beyond the basic action of traveling and learning new languages; it requires deep self-awareness and open-mindedness.

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Ochsner Endowed International Student Scholarship

Recipient of the Milton Ochsner International Scholarship for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Gladys Olson Scholarship

Recipient of the Gladys Olson Scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Truman and Reta Wood Scholarship

Recipient of the Truman and Reta Wood Scholarship for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Mark M. Welter World Citizen Scholarship

Recipient of the Mark M. Welter World Citizen Award for the 2018 spring semester.

Community Service Award

Recognition of outstanding service to the Community for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Dean's List

Fall 2015 - Spring 2016 - Fall 2016 - Spring 2017 - Fall 2017 - Spring 2018 - Fall 2018

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