

# Maryanne Mbiu



**Hi,**

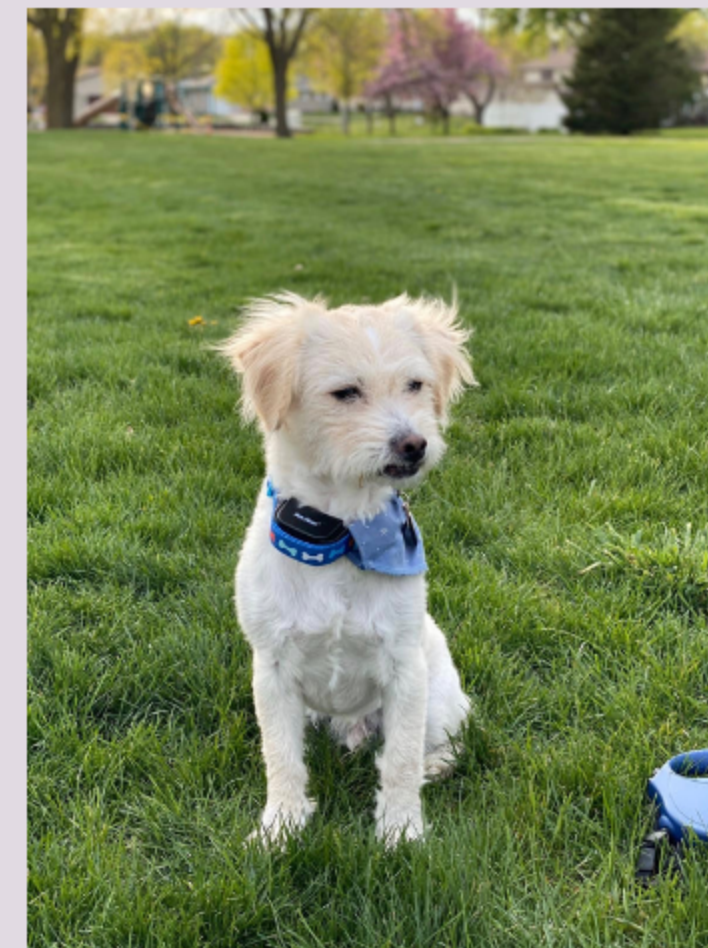
Thank you for taking time to read my e-folio. My name is Maryanne Mbiu, I am a senior student at Minnesota State University, Mankato. I will be graduating in summer 2021 with a degree in Business Management and a minor in Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Upon graduation, I intend on pursuing a career as a Business Analyst or an Account Manager. In the next year or two, my goal is to open a coffee shop or a Management Consulting firm.

## **Mission Statement**

To better equip myself with knowledge that will help strengthen my leadership skills meet the honors competencies and to apply that knowledge in my career and community. I strive to be a part of the change that we all hope to see in the world and I believe that being able to understand where we are all coming from is the best way to start.

## Background

I am one of four girls. Grew up in a small town in Kenya where I acquired a degree in cabin crew. At the age of 19, I moved to Bahrain for two years and after that here in the United States for school. While in Bahrain I managed to secure a position as a barista working for Costa Coffee a coffeehouse chain founded in London. After three months, I managed to move up the chain to an Assistant store in charge. It was during this experience that I decided on my career change. I enjoy many outdoor activities, I have a one-year-old dog called Obi-wan. I am an ambivert although my sister claims that I am more of an extrovert. I love reading books and watching crime shows.



## Goals

On top of my career goals of being an entrepreneur, I hope to be able to make part of a great change. Growing up I always wanted to start a shelter for the homeless and intend on seeing that through. I also have a great passion for traveling and I hope I will be able to visit as many countries as possible.

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# Honors Program



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

When I first joined college, at Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, I knew that in order to stand out from my peers in the now very competitive world I had to be active in college. On top of the programs that I was required to complete upon graduation, I had to do some extra activities. Sports were never my strong suits, so I knew that was not an option. I could have joined organizations but with previous experience of members never getting to meetings on time and meetings with no executions, I intended on avoiding them. I was hoping to find something that would help me grow. Something that was both challenging and illuminating. At the time, a friend of mine was already in the honors college, at my then college, when I informed her that I was looking to join the program, she responded by advising me not to. She informed me that the program was nothing but extra classes that did not account for one's major. She informed me that she was opting out of the program. I immediately lost interest and convinced myself that I would just stick to my major's required classes and hopefully at the end of my collegiate life, I would hopefully manage to make it into my career path.

In spring 2019, I moved to Minnesota state university. Some of my first classes were in Morris Hall and every day on my way from class I would walk past the honors office and think to myself that maybe I should give it another chance. One day I walked in and grabbed a prospectus promising myself not to expect too much. But then there it was, "Honors students are committed to developing in several competency areas such as leadership, research, and global citizenship" All these were areas that I would benefit from as a future entrepreneur. An ethical, critical thinking and decision-making leader who can amalgamate and use information from different disciplines to create a functional area of business company and develop an awareness of the ethical, global, and cultural diversity. These are skills that I have acquired since joining the honors family and not just that, the honors program gave me a family away from home. The professors have constantly proven that they are not only interested in just the curriculum part of it, but they are genuinely concerned and care for their students. They make it easier for students to go to them with concerns building a good student-teacher relationship. Through the program, I have also ameliorated as a team player and enhanced my research skills. I am glad that I chose Honors at Minnesota State University. The program offered me more than I bargained for and as I wind up in my college term, I intend on digging deeper into the learning experiences to my last day and to proceed on applying every knowledge acquired to my career upon graduation.

[LEADERSHIP](#)[RESEARCH](#)[GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP](#)

 [Learning Plan 2019-2020](#)  
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# Leadership

To a point in my life, I never really saw myself as a leader. I grew up watching my sister lead and admired her for it, but never thought I'd stand a chance to be one or that I even had it in me. It wasn't until one day when I told her how much I admired that part of her when she told me that I was her inspiration. According to her, she was mimicking my prowess. This was a revelation to me that the very same thing I admired her for she had borrowed from me. This challenged me to ascertain my competencies as a leader. Since joining Minnesota State University, Mankato, I have had many opportunities to participate in teams which have helped me perceive, implement and ameliorate my leadership skills and values.

My journey to perceive my leadership attributes began in my **HONR 201 experience**. This course helped me appreciate the different leadership attributes and the importance of acknowledging them in a team setting and their contribution in leadership growth. Discovering my strengths helped me express myself better and enabled me to focus on one field instead of trying to play part in everything.

On implementing my knowledge of leadership, I applied my attributes in different activities both on campus and in my community. For instance, I had the opportunity of being part of the **Student Affair Diversity Committee** where I exercised the knowledge acquired during my perceiving stage. While applying my strength and learning to appreciate those of others, I also discovered my weaknesses. I realized that I struggle with the failure to provide effective feedback and the idea of fully relying on others to accomplish a goal through teamwork. However, with time I learnt the importance of acknowledging my weaknesses and overcoming them as a leader to achieve an effective team. The **My Place program** was another experience that enabled me to improve my role as a team player in different group settings and help me progress my leadership skills.

The **Integrated Business Experience (IBE)** program also helped me ameliorate my leadership skills. This allowed me to apply my leadership skills by subjecting me to a real-life experience. IBE gave me an opportunity to learn the importance of flexibility as a leader instead of limiting oneself to only a single direction into achieving a goal. It also helped me discover and implement my personality into decision making and guiding others to reach their goal. I also developed a skill of problem solving, decision making, awareness of the ethical, global and cultural diversity. I believe that as a leader you can never stop learning to better yourself or those around you. Every day is a learning experience and I continue to search for ways to improve my leadership skills and values. As an entrepreneur, I intend on applying my strengths and personalities in leading my team. I will also focus on using my expertise to empower them to discover and attain their goals.

# Research

When I thought about college, I never thought I'd be participating in any research programs. I had the assumption that research was for science majors only. When enrolling in honors, I noticed that research was part of the program and that made me nervous about it since I had no experience and did not think I would be capable of succeeding in the experience. I am glad I took the leap because through my college career, I have had the chance to participate in more research experiences and every one of them has given me the chance to advance my research proficiency. My first research opportunity was in **HONR 201**. During this experience, I developed the research process knowledge by learning how to access and evaluate information relevant to my research and how to ethically present that information. In spring semester 2020, I had another opportunity to expand my research skills in **HONR 401**. Our performance video which was our final research product enabled me to broaden my information literacy and synthesis ideas. To accomplish this, I learned to use media sources like videos and images and combined that with information from different articles to create the project. This experience made me realize that research can be based on more than just articles as long as the sources relate to the topic.

Since I was gaining more confidence in my research knowledge, I decided to enroll in the **Integrated Business Experience (IBE)**. By applying the information literacy and synthesis knowledge, as a marketing agent, I worked with my team to research the best product fitted for our company. This information helped us generate questions for our survey which we sent out to students, professors, and the community. To disseminate our results, we combined the results from the survey into charts and graphs to help us determine our target market. As with any business, we faced a few hiccups but at the end of the semester, we had sold all our products making \$2,726 in profit. I also had the opportunity of participating in **the Creativity and Innovation** class. This class's focus is to challenge and develop one's creativity skills and the process of innovation. The main project in this class was to identify a challenge facing most industries during the pandemic. We conducted research that helped us identify the problem which we then supposed to formulate a solution. This experience helped me expand my research knowledge and appropriately disseminate my results.

Learning is a process and I intend on taking any research opportunity that comes my way. I will also apply the literacy, synthesis, and dissemination knowledge I have acquired in my business career.

# Global Citizenship

Culture is a big part of our lives giving each one of us a significant role to play. With the world becoming increasingly diverse through religion, languages, and cultural practices I believe that it is necessary that we establish relationships with people from different cultures to understand and appreciate cultural diversification. Growing up, I always wanted to travel, mainly for nature exposure, but It was not until I traveled out of Kenya that I realized how different cultural practices are and the beauty of these. During my enrollment in the Honors Program at Minnesota State University, Mankato, I had the opportunity to reflect on my cultural knowledge, practices and projections and improve my understanding and perspective through participating in various cultural events.

For my **Global citizenship**HONR 201, I had the opportunity to attend two events, the Asian and Hmong cultural nights. After these experiences, I discussed how learning the history of the Hmong and experiencing the music practices, and fashion from the various countries represented at Asian night helped me realize how diverse our cultures are. By comparing some of their cultural practices to mine, I discovered that my cultural rules and biases contribute to my ways of thinking and approaching problems. Another experience that allowed me to increase my self-awareness was the reflection on Living Abroad. It allowed me to compare how my cultural practices and biases differ from those of Bahrainis and others and how that can cause misunderstandings. It helped improve my understanding and perception of cultures. During HONR 401, to successfully create a performance project exploring instances of racial violence in Minnesota, I had to ask the question of how intersectionality is important and how it affects our lives and its contribution to the history of racial injustice in the United states. I also had the opportunity of enrolling in CDIS 205 in summer 2020. To learn American Sign Language (ASL) I had to understand its cultural values and views of the Deaf community. The experience also allowed me to immerse myself in the culture by communicating with people from the Deaf community.

The Global citizenship competency allowed me to learn so much about languages and cultures and how they relate to my life experiences. I am more aware now how through learning about diverse cultures I can appreciate people and their differences, help prevent and overcome racial and ethnic divisions and gain new experiences. With this knowledge, I will be able to engage myself in various cultures with an open mind and continue to ask questions.