

**Give an example of lesson(s) learned during LMC that you've applied as a leader.**

I was the only person in my class who classified as green/analytical in the Colors personality exercise. Realizing that I'm in the minority when communicating, I try to be more conversational in my language, more summary than technical. Unless of course my audience is green! In the years since graduation I've also re-tested and seen my primary color shift to yellow/task-oriented. I think this may be directly because I've become less appreciative of analytical personalities in leadership roles.

I was fascinated by a video about the (generalized!) differences between men and women. For example, men prefer side-to-side rather than face-to-face conversation, and conciseness rather than detail. For better and worse, men are more able to focus on a single activity in a distracting environment. This has shaped the way I talk and behave in one-on-one interactions.

During Diversity Day we watched a video about the controversial Chief Illiniwek mascot of the University of Illinois. The resulting discussion was the most spirited I saw all program long, and this about a relatively harmless topic! It's motivated me to see the value of both points of view in a debate.

**Describe your most significant leadership accomplishment(s) since graduation.**

I continued to manage a tax department of 25 employees at State Farm for another four years, eventually leading a project to resolve and settle a 20-year old compliance matter with the IRS. I was then transferred to another department where I developed a new employee 12-month training program and eventually created and assumed a role of on-boarding supervisor for all new employees.

In 2009 I further pursued my passion for teaching, founding a private tutoring business. I left State Farm full-time to run the business in 2013, which serves more than 80 students annually. It's also a ministry in the sense that I serve as facilitator with over ten other tutors to help students in need without charging any referral fees for myself.

In 2015 I formed and chaired a LMC Leadership Skills committee, which designs the curriculum and recruits speakers to train and measure growth in leadership skills for class participants.

**Why would you recommend LMC to others?**

I think I become a better person when I surround myself with good people. I'm also a believer in meeting at least ten new people a year. If your organization is willing to invest the time and tuition in you as a high-potential leader, LMC provides what no

internal program can match for the cost – a chance to learn from dozens of accomplished leaders across our community. You'll network with dozens more ambitious peer leaders outside your culture. You'll learn and practice essential leadership skills on the job and, by extension, in your personal life. Through the Leaders on Loan project you'll immediately benefit McLean County. The growing alumni programs mean that these relationships can last well beyond graduation day!

**Tell us about your LMC public service project.**

We developed a marketing plan for the PATH Crisis Center, a prerequisite for their application for 211, the information hotline. As part of that, we wrote a theme song and recorded a commercial. I was greatly impressed by working with director Karen Zangerle. She clearly had the talent to work in a higher-paying job, but she was devoted to helping others in need. That's stuck with me as a model of true selflessness.