**Leadership Style Paper**

BA 3500

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My current leadership roles at the University of Missouri-Columbia include being the President and Treasurer of the MU Cultural Cuisine Club (MU CCC). My friend and I started the club last semester to gain more leadership experience. For the club to be recognized by Mizzou, we had to find a club sponsor (a full-time MU teacher), complete the required paperwork, and attend the mandatory new student organization information meeting through OrgSync. After submitting the new student organization application, we waited for SOGA to recommend our club for Student Affairs. Once the club was approved, I created the OrgSync profile so students could find out more information about the club!

The MU Cultural Cuisine Club’s mission is to create a national dish from different countries around the world every month or so. As President, I create meal ideas for the club meetings, and then ask members what they would prefer to make. The VP and I buy the necessary ingredients for the selected recipe based on the number of members who rsvp. As Treasurer, I handle the finances for the club meetings and go to the annual budget meeting (required by OrgSync). After purchasing the ingredients for the chosen dish, I divide up the cost among those who attend the meeting. Having members pay a small fee helps keep costs low, which is helpful due to OrgSync not providing funding for food. The last duty that I have as President is to attend the annual administration training, which I will be attending in November with the VP.

According to the Harvard Business Review’s leadership style assessment (2018), my go-to leadership style is the Harmonizer. The article explains how the harmonizer has high standards of quality, can effectively spot problems and potential solutions using network relationships, and usually try to facilitate coordination and execution in the work place. (West, Stixrud, & Reger, 2018). Three “potential blind spots” based on my chosen leadership style were constructively addressing conflict, accepting ambiguity, and remembering to “look up”. I was surprised by the accuracy of my weaknesses, such as having trouble giving harsh feedback, and focusing more on short term goals rather than long term. Another one of my leadership styles, Producer, values a strong work ethic, hard work, consistency, and tangible results (West et al. 2018). I think that both leadership styles influence my current leadership roles. As President of the MU CCC, I try to facilitate coordination within the club meetings (planning and preparation). I also expect consistency from my VP when it comes to helping plan and execute the meetings.

Another leadership skills test, from Psychology Today, stated how I have a strong communicating vision. The snapshot report said that I can communicate my plans in an exciting way, and envision a clear direction for my company/organization (“Leadership Style Test,” 2018). Being able to clearly communicate my vision for the MU Cultural Cuisine Club is an important leadership skill because members are more likely to participate if they are passionate about the mission. I think that my leadership style relates closely with the Distributed leadership theory in chapter 1 of *Connected Leadership.* Distributed leadership involves “shared decision making within an overall framework of coordinated activity” (Hayward, 2016, p.7). This theory best describes my leadership in MU CCC because I have created a democratic environment. Instead of making all the decisions for the club, I let members have a choice in what meal to prepare and what day would work best for club meetings.

I hope to expand my leadership skills during my time at MU by acquiring more leadership roles, and completing Professional Edge events covering the traits of leadership. One article published by The American Management Association, describes the top ten traits of great leaders, and mentions how being result orientated and having a vision are key in today’s workplace (Hewes, 2018). My current long-term goal is graduating cum laude, or summa cum laude (stretch goal). Putting in hard work now will help me achieve my goal, and my work ethic will help after college by transferring to my career in the workplace. Another goal I want to accomplish prior to graduation is improving my communication skills. Three important skills for finance students after college are exceptional leadership, adaptable communication, and humble confidence (Stade, 2013). Most employers want workers who can communicate effectively, and an important element of communication is confidence. By joining Delta Sigma Pi, a business fraternity on campus, I hope to improve my confidence when it comes to meeting new people and making connections.

**Reference Page**

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