

Veteran Donation Drive

Mireya Sanchez, Class of 2025

Vision

Support low-income students in their **professional endeavors** to achieve success either through higher education or military enrollment.

Mission

Bring JROTC students and SMU veterans together by **engaging in community service** that will benefit the Dallas area.

Values

Dedication. **Leadership**. Growth. Commitment.

Highlights and Process

- Research the effects of homelessness on the military community
- Reach out to several JROTC programs across the Dallas area
- Host a donation drive and collect hygiene items for the Homeless Veteran Services of Dallas (HVSD)
- Visit Vanguard High School and talk with students
- Bring students to campus to help assemble hygiene backpacks with donations
- Talk to students about my experience being a student and a service member

The Future

I plan to continue running this donation drive every year as part of SMU's Military Veteran Association Executive Board. While we only partnered with one school this year, I plan to expand this project across Dallas and provide mentorship opportunities and advising for JROTC high schoolers.



Students assembled hygiene backpacks and wrote notes of encouragement for homeless veterans



Students were able to ask questions regarding college admission, military lifestyle, and tips on how to be successful in the future from college life and beyond



Leadership is a **LIFELONG** process.



Leadership is **PROPELLING** vision into action

- Being in JROTC in high school, I was able to relate and connect with the students
- I focused my attention on low-income and minority high schools
- SMU students were given the opportunity to support homeless veterans in the Dallas area
- SMU community worked together to fulfill JROTC's donation drive

Lessons Learned

- Having open and honest lines of communication is crucial.
- Whenever you reach a road block, stay true to your mission.
- Expect to not always have the results you want.
- Learn to rely on self-discipline when you lack motivation.
- Leadership comes in many forms

My Favorite Caswell Workshop

My favorite Caswell Workshop was Leading through Failures where we recognized and celebrated our failures. Not only did it help me become comfortable with talking about my failures, but it taught me how to mitigate them as well.



Project Advisor

Ivanna Stefan,
Graduate Assistant

ECO

Cydney & Max, Class of 2025

Vision

The new generation should be aware of environmental inequity and how to combat it in order to support existing communities and to build future ones.

Mission

The Clean-Up Project is an organization that works to positively impact sustainability practice and education on the SMU campus and in the greater Dallas area.

Values

We value the continued learning among students and adults and the fostering of respect and understanding for our environment and the diverse individuals that inhabit it.

Highlights and Process

- We now understand that changing the issues in one's own community is just as important as outreach work
- Communication skills have been increased as we try to collaborate with organizations and individual institutions on campus
- Created clear goals believed to be achievable by the end of Spring 2023
- Goal is to start an official Clean-Up org. in Fall 2023
- Currently reaching out to students to join a board of directors for this student organization

The Future

The Clean-Up Project plans to develop a functioning executive board and charter on the SMU campus to continue support for environmental sustainability practices into the future and to promote interaction between students and their relationship with the environment in an educational way.



The Clean-Up Project Logo



Project Initiatives



Leadership is **propelling vision into action**



Leadership is **courageously inclusive**

- *The Clean-Up Project works to actualize a set of values and ideals that encourage equality while involving as many people as possible.*
- *The Clean-Up Project encourages dialogue between members of the outside community to ensure that the goals we pursue are desired by those that they will impact.*
- *SMU student relations with organizations and projects should be inspired by passion and interest in the area of impact.*

Lessons Learned

- Creation of and commitment to a timeline is necessary to achieve goals as a group or organization.
- Communication and collaboration between parties will allow for an understanding of expectations and desires.
- Delegation of roles and responsibilities allows for more efficient work and builds trust between individuals.

My Favorite Caswell Workshop

Our favorite Caswell Workshop was the SMART Goal workshop. It helped us break down the goals that we had for our project into manageable pieces which helped us get started and make consistent progress.



Project Advisor
Brooke Richardson
Assistant Director,
Parent Ψ Family Programs

Commuter Inclusion & Advocacy at SMU

Ashish Doma, Class of 2024

Vision

To create an **inclusive student experience** that promotes all students **thriving socially** and **holistically**, especially those not seen in the **traditional idea** of a college experience.

Mission

Building a more **inclusive campus** where each commuter student feels **connected**, part of the **community**, **cared for** and **validated** regardless of their living situation. I'm realizing this through working with various campus **leaders** and **facilities**.

Values

Love. Gratitude. **Community**. Creativity. Humor.

Highlights and Process

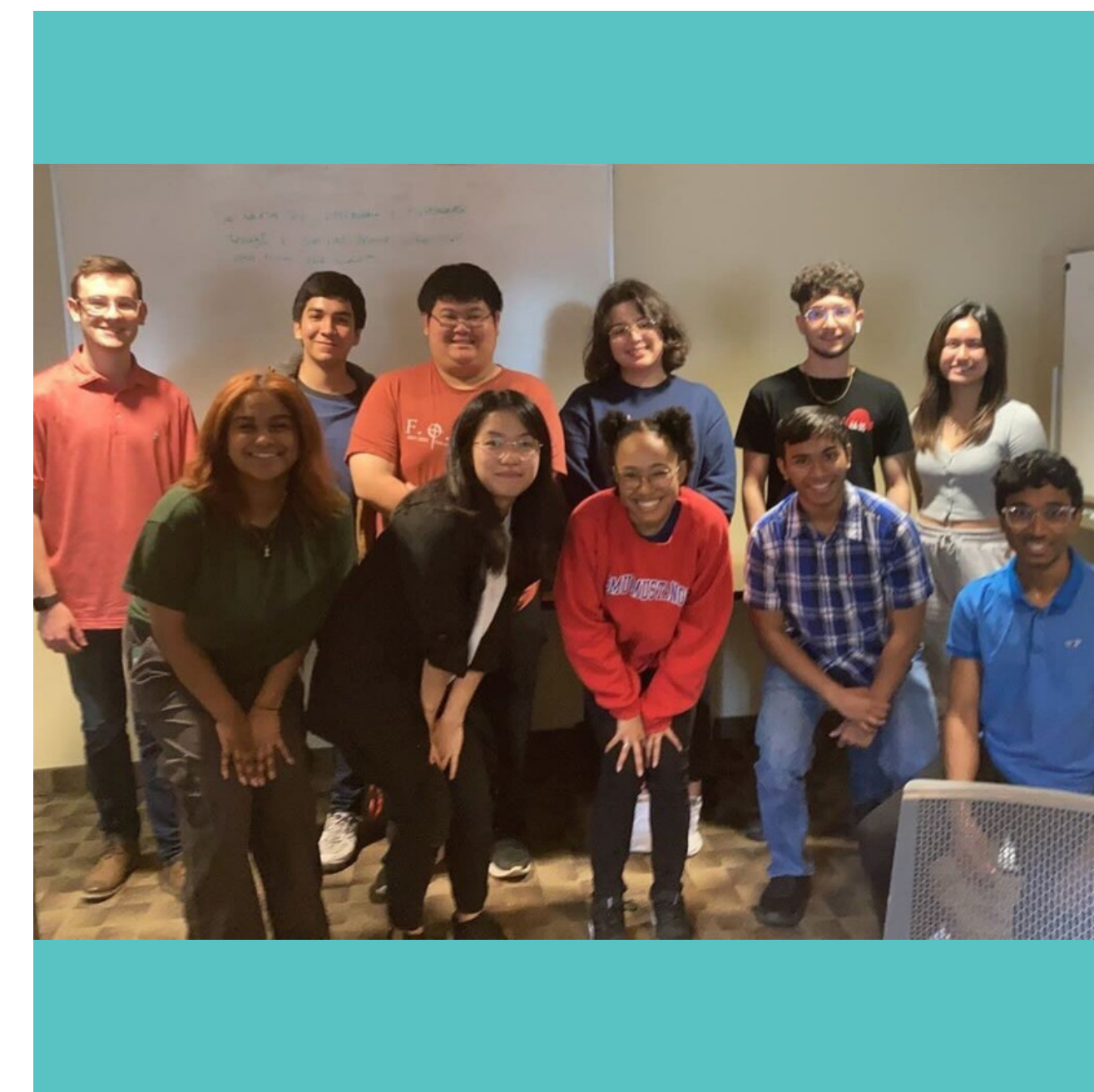
- Set up meeting with Diversity, Equity & Inclusivity Committee of Student Senate to discuss the diverse, commuter student experience at SMU.
- Interviewed with the Daily Campus regarding commuter resources, roadblocks and more.
- Solidified the role of Commuter Ambassador at Boaz Commons by creating a job description, implementing Commuter Committee, building community, and more.
- Gathering holistic data about the commuter experience at SMU.
- Designing commuter merchandise to create a sense of community and solidarity within our community.

The Future

I plan to implement the data I've gathered to continue to advocate for commuter students all across SMU. Goals to do this include implementing a Commuter Senator(s), facilitating access to dining common spaces for students with and without meal plans, continuing conversations and creating student-leader positions that will continue to support commuter students at SMU.



Here's a picture of me at a Boaz Commons signature event, where I received an award for promoting inclusivity and community for commuters!



Here's a picture of myself and some friends at a commuter event I programmed to help peers meet and share a catered meal with each other.



Leadership is **courageously inclusive**.



Leadership is **committed to developing more leaders**.

- *My project's central mission is to create an inclusive, supportive and uplifting community for commuter students at SMU.*
- *I understand true and impactful changes come from movements, not a single person. Therefore, my project looks to create student-leader positions dedicated to continued advocacy for commuter students at SMU.*

Lessons Learned

- Staying true to myself throughout personal conflict.
- Self-discipline in designing and sticking to project schedules.
- Advocating for groups who are underrepresented.
- Using SMU's resources to create lasting, positive change on campus.
- Challenging myself and the status quo to be better.

My Favorite Caswell Workshop

My favorite Caswell Workshop was the Strengths Workshop. It is always nice to reflect and learn how I can have a positive impact that is fulfilling for myself and the people I care and advocate for!



Project Advisor

Brooke Richardson
Assistant Director,
Parent & Family Programs



Language Partners

Lillian Duma, Class of 2024

Vision

To offer financial and social stability to Dallas immigrants while immersing SMU students with cultural competency skills through dual language tutoring.

Mission

To foster reciprocal-learning that strives to unite the immigrant and college student demographics through their shared interest of language learning.

My Values

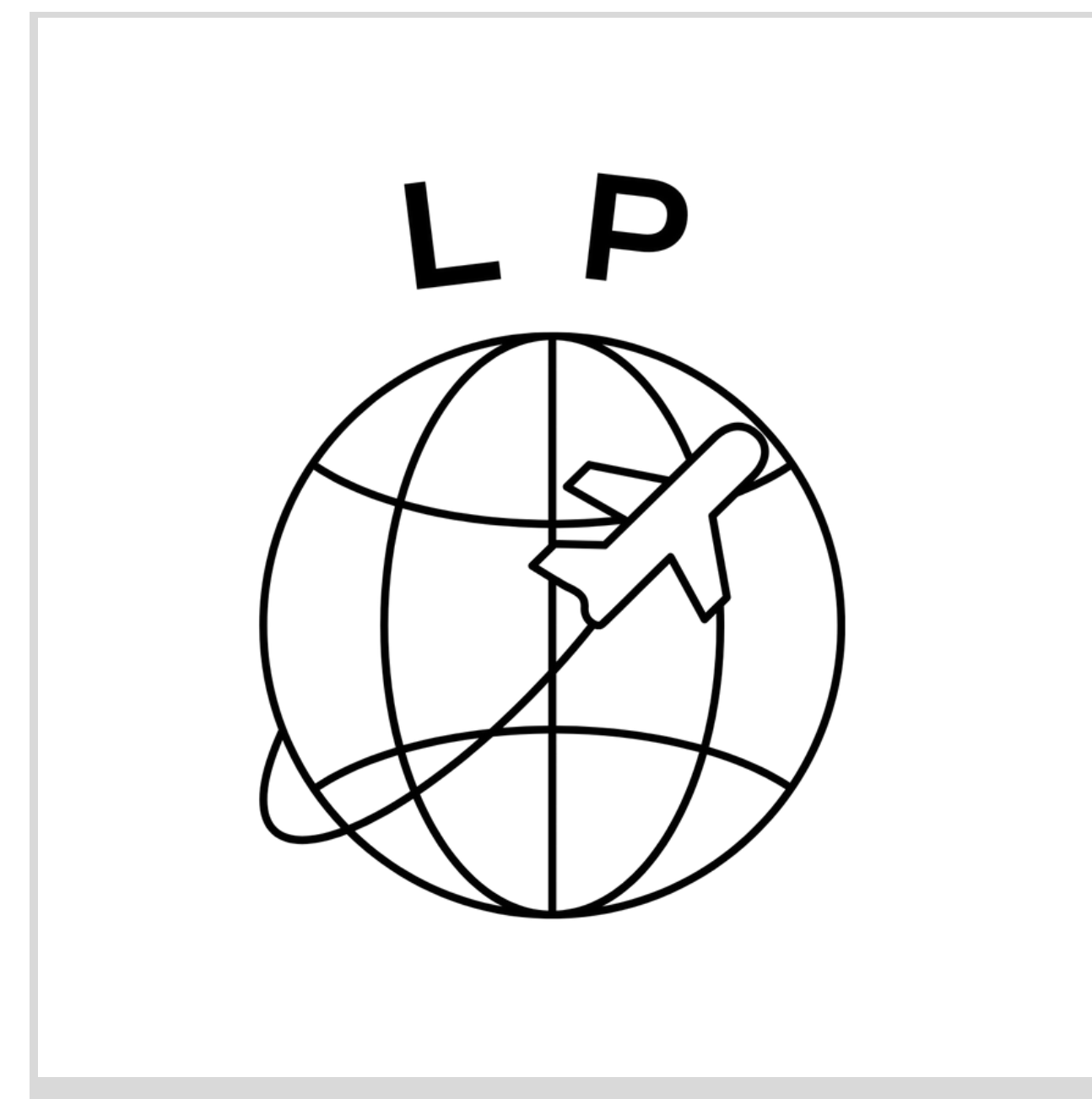
To promote **reciprocal learning**, an educative process that utilizes the skills of both parties, to ensure condescension does not take place.

Highlights and Process

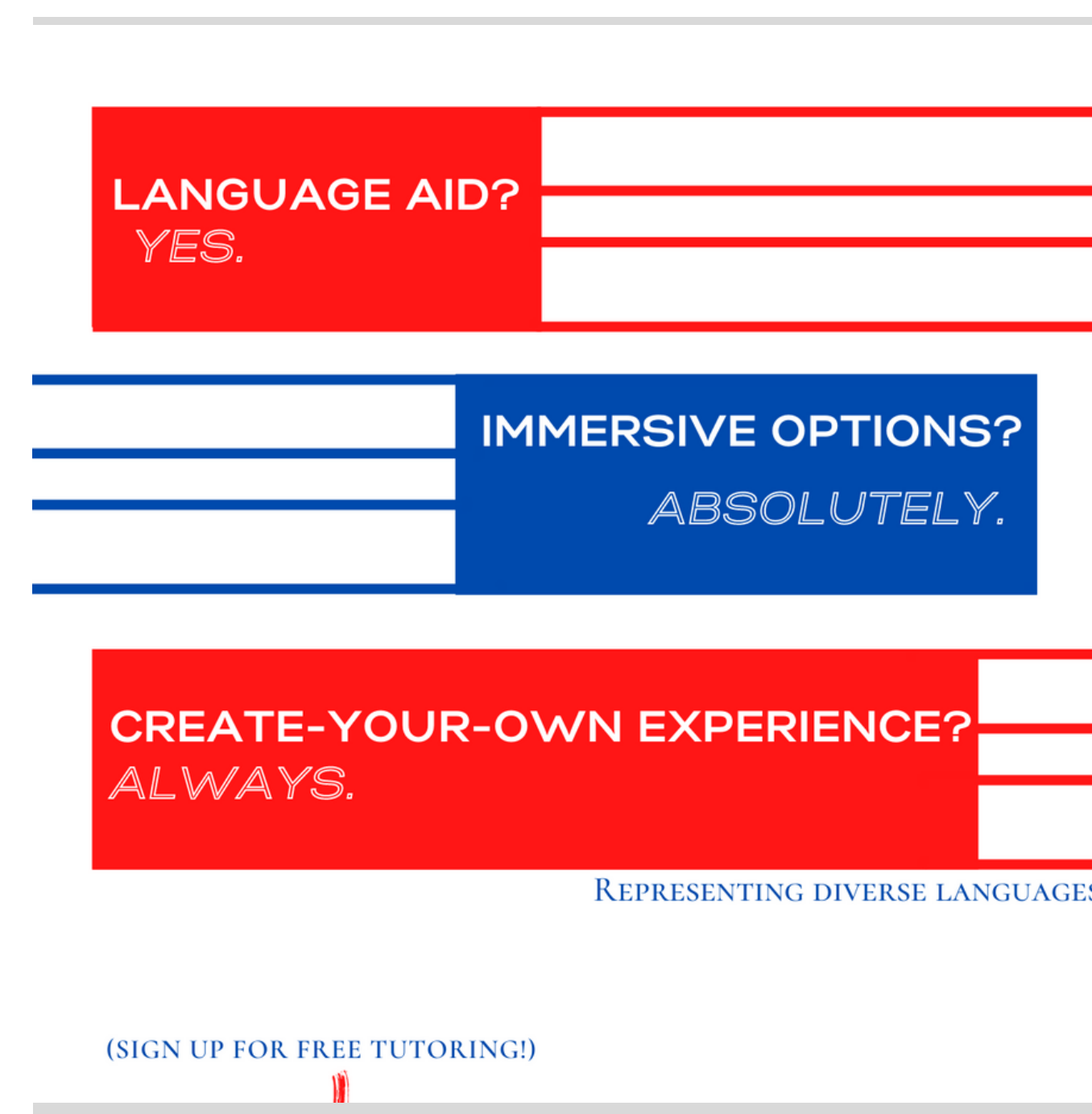
- Change from SMU students only tutoring immigrants to immigrants equally tutoring SMU students their native language (change to reciprocal learning)
- Researched the benefits of reciprocal learning
- 75+ committed students
- Senate presentation to orgs. committee April 14th
- Partnership with off-campus refugee organizations
- Creation and success of website
- Merch development

The Future

Language Partners plans to develop a digital, flexible curriculum for its tutors as well as a physical resource for SMU student-tutors to store their tutoring materials in one place.



Language Partners Logo



Language Partners advertisement to off-campus organizations



Leadership is a lifelong process.



Leadership is **inherently ethical**.

- Language Partners makes improvements and changes on a weekly basis.
- Changing the structure of the tutoring sessions derives from our realization that we have something to gain from our Partners.
- SMU Student relationships with people should not be a form of volunteering but rather an investment in their own future, too.

Lessons Learned

- Practice patience with partners both on and off campus.
- Compartmentalize between mistakes and personal attributes
- Holding others accountable is necessary to the success of the organization

My Favorite Caswell Workshop

My favorite Caswell Workshops include conflict management and turning failures into successes. Both have taught me professional skills integral to my personal & professional development.



Advisor

Meghan Perez,
Assistant Director
Office of Student Experience

Giddy-Up Podcast

Sameet Banerjee, Class of 2024

Vision

To **create** leaders who **positively** impact the communities around them, starting at SMU and eventually the world.

Mission

To aid underclassmen developing in **leadership** by delivering information that champions the idea of leadership at **SMU** and around the world.

My Values

Integrity, Authenticity, Achievement, Mentorship, Growth

Highlights and Process

- Created an 8 episode podcast focusing on the SMU leadership framework.
- Researched domestic and foreign leadership styles.
- Published completed podcast in April to host websites.
- Recorded podcast episodes with student leaders across campus, each with their own leadership frame.
- Allocated budget to recording and AV equipment.
- Collaborated with Project Advisor, Nick Fontela, to streamline ideas and content.

The Future

This podcast will serve as a tool for incoming and current students who want to grow their leadership and teamwork. By listening to the podcast, SMU leaders will positively impact their communities.

LEADERSHIP IS...
accessible to everyone
a lifelong process
inherently ethical
relational
courageously inclusive
propelling vision into action
committed to developing more leaders

Giddy-Up Podcast Logo



Sameet recording with VP of Asian Council



Leadership is **ACCESSIBLE** to everyone.



Leadership is **committed to DEVELOPING** more leaders.

- The Giddy-Up podcast was created to spearhead learning about the different leadership frames.
- The podcast is accessible to anyone, targeted towards SMU students.
- Being a leader is much more than having a position - it's about service.

Lessons Learned

- Leadership is a lifelong process that extends far into the future after SMU.
- It's important to remember the "why" behind one's leadership.
- Asking for help is not a weakness, it's a strength.
- The vision one has can lead to many different actions.

My Favorite Caswell Workshop

My favorite workshop was the one in which we discussed our strengths after taking the CliftonStrengths assessment!



Project Advisor

Nick Fontela
Graduate Assistant

Mental Health Matters

Sayumi Mahawanniarachchi, Class of 2023

Vision

We envision a world in which suicide is eradicated from college campuses.

Mission

We exist to increase awareness of mental health resources and eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health disorders at SMU.

My Values

My top five values are excellence, efficiency, competence, success, and harmony.

Highlights and Process

- Assembled an organization with over thirty members
- Appointed an organization advisor
- Wrote constitution and by-laws for organization
- Designed graphics and established a social media presence
- Established connections with existing SMU offices and student organizations
- Planned and organized a signature event to take place during the last week of classes

The Future

Mental Health Matters plans to establish a yearly signature event which increases awareness of on-campus support channels and mental health resources. In addition, we will host monthly events which will focus on a different facet of mental health.



Organization Logo



Mental Health Matters Executive Board



Leadership is propelling vision into action.



Leadership is committed to DEVELOPING more leaders.

- Mental Health Matters was a project that required an immense amount of planning, strategic thinking, and revision in order to propel our vision into action.
- Throughout my project, I had to think about how to develop our general members into strong leaders so that they are able to continue our mission after I leave SMU.

Lessons Learned

- Making mistakes is a part of leadership. How you respond to your mistakes largely defines what type of leader you are.
- Good leaders prioritize forming genuine connections with their team members. People don't care what you know until they know that you care.
- Leadership is highly individualized.

My Favorite Caswell Workshop

I greatly enjoyed the values workshop because it allowed me to identify the aspects of leadership I would most like to prioritize.



Project Advisor

Anna Mugerditchian
Graduate Assistant,
Office of the Student Experience



Are the Kids Alright?

Hannah Hall, Class of 2022

Vision

This study hopes to connect two generations, while dispelling misconceptions of each in order to educate the university based on the lessons from both.

Mission

Implement a survey-based meta-analysis resulting in a publication to the SMU Undergraduate Research Journal.

Values

What could the Generation Z students of SMU potentially learn from the activism of their parents' and grand-parents' Baby Boomer generation that could aid them in their fight for social justice today?

Highlights and Process

- Conducted a literature review for the research paper, documenting the important literature and historical context surrounding the social movements mentioned within my survey.
- Created a survey through Qualtrics for the student body to digitally access via email. The survey utilizes past survey questions about social movements popular in the late 1960s as well as today through online archives.
- Currently budgeting to have the survey monetarily compensate students for their participation.

The Future

The results of the survey will be coded within NVivo over the next month with a research paper aimed to be ready for publication by my graduation in August.



Martin Luther King Jr. at SMU, 1966



Racial justice protest led by SMU BSAC, 2020



Leadership is **inherently ethical**.



Leadership is **courageously inclusive**.

- My project is a form of social research with human subjects, so I wanted make sure that my survey fell within the code of ethics under the SMU IRB.
- This project is based around the idea of broadening inclusivity on campus by researching social justice movements both students and faculty alike have experienced within their lifetimes.

Lessons Learned

- My material success or physical progress does not determine my inherent value as a human or academic.
- Every project has its own unique timeframe as well as adversities but that doesn't mean you should give up if the results are different from what you expected.

My Favorite Caswell Workshop

The workshop we had on dealing with failure. Due to the personal hardships I have faced this semester at SMU, it was very encouraging to hear that you can still learn through failure.