



2019 Duke Leadership Academy Scholars & Quotes

Amanda Parrish

Being part of the Duke Leadership Academy has been an excellent mechanism to take a step outside of my normal Duke bubble. Learning new information, translating leadership skills into my work, and meeting new colleagues in other areas of Duke have been the most fruitful parts of my experience. So happy to have been involved this year.



Ana Valverde Vidal

I have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the DLA this year. I have met pretty incredible people and have learned a lot from them and from the speakers that came to teach and talk to us. It has made me realized once again what an exceptional place Duke is.



Anneli Richter

The opportunity to join DLA allowed me to build a network of colleagues across Duke's many offices. Specifically, the camaraderie that developed within our team is something I greatly value. Not only did I learn about areas at Duke that were new to me – but working with our team was a great exercise in making the most of our individual networks to produce a final project. I feel lucky to have been a part of such a collaborative and efficient team where humor was a part of every meeting.



Doreen Matters

- Close friendships established: 5
- New connections made across Duke: 31
- Number of times I practiced for a 3 minute presentation: 78!
- Overall Leadership Experience: Invaluable



Doug Heron

My experience in DLA allowed me to gain exposure to things I would never have encountered at Duke, and to people who I regretfully would have never had the opportunity to meet. My team members, and my class, are the best of what Duke has to offer and is a daily reminder of why Duke is great and why it is the best place to work! I often say there's no place I'd rather be, and the entire experience is validation of that feeling.



Dudley Willis

I appreciated the opportunity to get to know several Duke colleagues that I would not, otherwise, have met. I, also, very much enjoyed the leadership review sessions where we reviewed various leadership principles. It helped me to think about leadership in new ways and gave me some tools that I can use in my current management role.



Emily Wiegand

As JFK stated, “Leadership and learning are indispensable to one another.” The DLA program interweaves these two subjects in theory and in practice. My perspectives on leadership have broadened while putting new principles into practice. My network across the institute has also expanded. I’m grateful and fortunate to have been a part of a such a great project team and cohort. Thank you for the opportunity to learn and participate.



Gwen Hall-Difabio

What will stay with me is the importance of being authentic in your leadership style. You can't lose yourself in an effort to try to "fit" into a leadership model. If you do, your effectiveness is diminished. Dean Ashby's leadership journey was a demonstration of that authenticity and her words, "What do we do at Duke? Excellence! Excellence! Excellence!" summarize for me the spirit I want to inspire as a leader.



Jack Winters

The Duke Leadership Academy has been a terrific experience that has helped in my growth individually, as a teammate, and a leader. I value the working relationships formed with my DLA colleagues over these 12 months. I also look forward to applying new skills that I learned through my DLA experience with my office team.



Jill Cordell

I really enjoyed meeting people from various departments at Duke and delving into the Six Domains of Leadership. I gained a wealth of knowledge and tools that I can take back to my department (I've already used the presentation training!) and appreciate Duke's investment in my leadership development!



Katherine Stanley

DLA is a great opportunity to step out of the day to day work whirl wind and give the necessary time, thought and attention to what it means to be a leader. The exposure to talented professors and leaders and the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with colleagues across the University was a valuable experience that will impact my career for the better. I am grateful for the opportunity to participate.



Kent Wicker

I enjoyed getting out of my silo and finding out how the rest of Duke works -- and getting to know some really great people.



Kurt Cumiskey

I achieved my goals of learning how to better work in teams and to lead laterally and vertically through the readings, lectures, and case studies during the Duke Leadership Academy. The best example was the project, where our team quickly identified our shared goal making Duke a more efficient system and saving the University money. Despite, or perhaps because of, the different personality types and strengths of each team member, we wrote a successful proposal.



Mary McKee

- Imagine working on a team where every person is engaged, curious, dedicated, and willing to go the extra mile to ensure the group's success.
- Beyond the excellent curriculum and mentoring, the Duke Leadership Academy offered me the opportunity to experience what is possible within teams that are fully committed to excellence and each other. DLA has given me new perspectives on teamwork and raised my expectations for Duke and myself.



Miranda McCall

The Duke Leadership Academy has taught me through the classes and team-based work that leadership isn't a role we are assigned; it is inextricably tied to who we are, regardless of titles or tasks. Leadership can be cultivated in every direction of hierarchy and in each relationship, and the courses and workshops helped me recognize that it is more than a set of strategic management skills; it is also the cultivation of character.



Nicole Schramm-Sapyta

I have really enjoyed this class! It was great to have dedicated time to think about how my leadership abilities can improve, and how my actions impact those around me. The best part was learning from my colleagues in the class, especially the Red Team!



Oleg Kobelev

This has been an outstanding experience for me in every respect. From bonding with colleagues across the university, to learning new leadership skills and competencies and working on an exciting group project, spending this past year as part of the Duke Leadership Academy has been truly unforgettable. I will miss working with my teammates on a weekly basis and hope to continue collaborating after finishing this program.



Paula Batton

Being teamed up with other directors across campus, especially due to lack of overlap in our existing roles, was an amazing experience. We really did have a lot of connections and experience to pull from to complete our project. It made me think what amazing results could happen at Duke when you just pull the right group of people together.



Todd Blandford

Participating in the DLA has made this a great year. Every aspect of this year's DLA has been incredibly valuable, but having the opportunity to work on and present with my Red Team group has been the most rewarding. Now I look forward to learning the secret handshake from other DLA graduates.



Todd Maberry

The Duke Leadership Academy was a phenomenal experience for me in two specific ways: leadership development and University connections. I am a junkie when it comes to learning how to improve as a leader, and DLA gave me the time, space, and resources to grow. The 360 evaluation was particularly insightful. My time collaborating with the Yellow team was invaluable in making connections with exceptional people across the university.



Victor Taylor

I like the fact that my job requires me to interface with colleagues from across the campus and health system. The Duke Leadership Academy provided an opportunity to expand that network. The most pleasant surprise has been the bonds and friendships that I have forged from the Action Learning Team.

