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My Key to Leadership

Cindy J. Simporios
Xavier University of Louisiana, pathways@xula.edu

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J. Cindy Simporios

My Key to Leadership

I tried to tuck an obnoxious strand back into my hair, but it wasn’t just the humid summer air that was burning me up. It was excitement and nervousness, too. I pulled out my chair and stood up, as a number of unfamiliar people in the crowd applauded. Someone called out my name and my knees started trembling. As a young lady shook my hand, I felt warmth flow throughout my body. In no time, I was officially inducted as the President of my Key Club.

Indeed, time does fly. It was one morning four years earlier when I asked my friend, who introduced me to Key Club, if we literally made keys in the club. Now, looking back at that time, the significance of “key” in name finally made sense to me—a key to change. Yes, Key Club tremendously changed me as a leader, as a student, and as an individual in this society. When I did my very first key club activity, which was a carwash for Leukemia patients, I was astonished by people’s overwhelming support and my club’s willingness to help out. Those things motivated me to do the same and even more for the future events. As a leader, one thing that I cannot forget was when a little girl, during one of the library activities that we did once in a while, told me that she wanted to be like me when she grows up. To know that I inspired someone, a very young and innocent mind, to give back in the community, showed me that Key Club impacted me to be a more selfless, more considerate, and more organized individual. Hence, Key Club transformed me over time from being a thoughtless teenager to being a concerned and altruistic service leader.

As written as its motto, “caring—our way of life,” Key Club has not just served locally, but also internationally for over fifty years. Now and then, it has been an organization to help the unfortunate and hopeless. When a terrifying tsunami swept Japan and left thousands of people
homeless, the Key Club raised over $1,000 from bake sales and a carwash to help aid the victims, many of whom were left with nothing to eat or drink. It took us a lot of effort and determination to succeed; yet, the outcome was very satisfying. Moreover, Key Club is not just about serving people financially, but is also about fun and learning for little kids and the elderly, through different programs, such as Read Around the World, Kiwanis in Pajamas, and bingo night at nursing homes. It has always been a pleasure for me to see kids actively participating in storytelling and craft-making, while having fun at the same time, and to see the heartwarming smiles of the elderly when they eagerly play the game.

As Key Club persistently touches thousands of lives in the society, Key Club also continues to grow more and more across the globe. I believe that joining Key Club in high school was the best choice I have ever made. The learning that I obtained from being an active member for two years made me the best president during my senior year. I always made sure to prioritize the needs of my members and worked hard for them to get the best experiences they could from being a key-clubber. Also, I wanted them to be positively influenced, as Key Club did to me, and to realize what key club really is all about. It is not just a typical service organization. It is an organization that builds character and morality.