UNIVERSITEIT · iYUNIVESITHI · STELLENBOSCH · UNIVERSITY

100
1918·2018

Centre for Student Leadership & Structures' (CSLS) Leadership Summit for Aspiring Leaders

12 September 2020

Theme:

Action through Pause:

2020 - When leadership requires the leader to "step up or step out".

Purpose Statement:

The COVID-19 global pandemic has highlighted challenges and voids within various sectors of the South African Government, as well as governments across the world. The South African economy is struggling to stay afloat due to stringent rules and regulations on trade and export; job and food security are being threatened on a daily basis, and the education sector, both basic and higher education, are confronted with challenges pertaining to access to quality and equal education.

At the core of these challenges are the need for leaders, and specifically student leaders, to step up and lead during these VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex, ambiguous) times.

Within the South African Higher Education space, the leadership void within the student leadership environment has become even more apparent. Over the years a decrease in student participation in formal leadership structures has been noticed. At the same time the trend of students exploring alternative ways to express their agency through e.g. social activism and student movements have increased, i.e. exploring non-official leadership roles. In some cases, operations within formal student leadership bodies have been paused on the one hand, due to the absence of an interest in students running for formal leadership positions on campus and on the otherhand, the lack of student leaders who inspire trust to the student bodies.

saam vorentoe · masiye phambili · forward together
Sentrum vir Studenteleierskap en –strukture | Centre for Student Leadership and Structures
Studentesake | Student Affairs
Privaat Sak X1, Private Bag X1, Matieland, 7602
Tel: +27 21 808 2312 | www.sun.ac.za/studentesake

The year 2020, also presented us with opportunities. It calls for student leaders to review how current institutional structures can be utilised to support student needs in ways that will serve as a catalyst to inspire a new perception of student leadership and new ways of engagement. It also allows for student leaders to step up without a title and requiring individuals to lead from a strengths-based approach to constructively challenge the perception of what it means to lead as a student...

The 2020 CSLS Summit (a pilot programme), will create an online platform for aspiring leaders to pause - to step up without title to:

- firstly, acknowledge their leadership aspirations and strengths,
- secondly, to review how they can utilise their strengths to address the institutional challenges they have identified preventing them to step-up for leadership positions and,
- thirdly, to commit to their personal goal-setting by seeking the appropriate channels to practice their leadership.

In short: The CSLS Leadership summit will enable students to reflect on their perception of leadership roles, how they are constructed within the Higher Education space and how that influences leadership at Stellenbosch University. The key question to be explored is: How can students, on a personal level, contribute to changing the way leadership perceptions are shaped, and experienced, to be conducive to developing leaders for the 21st century.

As a result, the summit aims to the expand the leadership pipeline through more supportive pathways for students to access institutional support so that they can be effectively prepared for leadership roles.

Summit Objectives:

1) To encourage students to identify and analyse their strengths and leadership capabilities within the student leadership landscape so that they can lead sustainably in VUCA times.
2) To co-create with students a platform to identify contextual influences impacting student leadership within the institution and how it can be changed so that more students can take up leadership roles.
3) To equip students with tools to implement their personal goal-setting to seek the appropriate channels to practice their leadership so that when they are in a leadership setting there is a clear understanding of their contribution.

Summit Outcomes:

Upon completion of the Summit, students will be able to;

1) identify strengths and leadership capabilities to lead sustainably in VUCA times.

2) analyse the contextual influences within the student leadership landscape which might be preventing them to take up leadership roles.

3) align strengths and capabilities to commit in developing personal leadership goals and applying it to practice leadership.