

University of Central Florida

STARS

High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall
2023

High Impact Practices Student Showcase

Fall 2023

Crossing the Bridge

Viviana C. Joseph

University of Central Florida, vi227721@ucf.edu

Find similar works at: <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/hip-2023fall>

University of Central Florida Libraries <http://library.ucf.edu>

This Service Learning is brought to you for free and open access by the High Impact Practices Student Showcase at STARS. It has been accepted for inclusion in High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall 2023 by an authorized administrator of STARS. For more information, please contact STARS@ucf.edu.

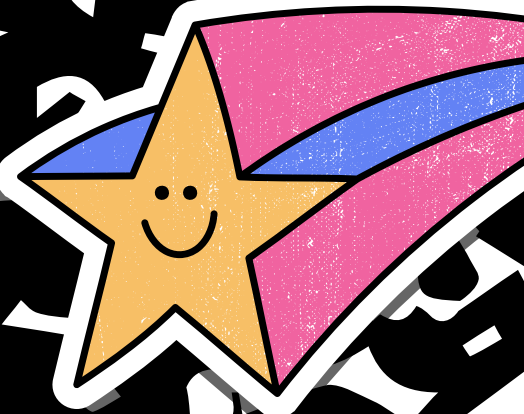
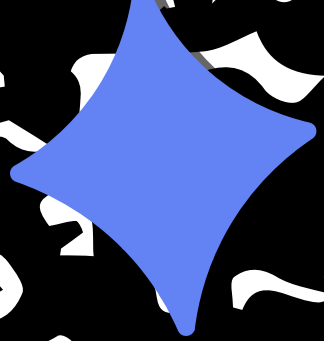
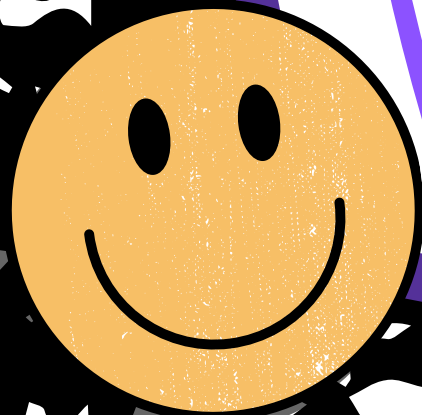
Recommended Citation

Joseph, Viviana C., "Crossing the Bridge" (2023). *High Impact Practices Student Showcase Fall 2023*. 61.
<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/hip-2023fall/61>

CROSSING THE BRIDGE

Senior Class of 2024!

WHAT COMES NEXT?



PROJECT SUMMARY		
	<p>THIS FALL SEMESTER, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH MY FORMER HIGH SCHOOL, SPECIFICALLY, THE SENIOR CLASS OF 2024. AS A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT, I UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF PREPARING FOR SUCH A NEW EXPERIENCE DESPITE NOT HAVING THE GUIDANCE OR SUPPORT YOU MAY NEED TO NAVIGATE IT ALL. STARTING THIS NEW CHAPTER OF YOUR LIFE CAN BE EXCITING, BUT ALSO STRESSFUL, SO I WOULD’VE WANTED ALL THE HELP I COULD GET. I MADE IT MY GOAL TO ENSURE I COULD BE AN AID TO THIS YEAR’S GRADUATING CLASS OF THIRTY-NINE STUDENTS THROUGH MY EXPERIENCE AND ADVICE, SO THEY CAN BE CONFIDENT IN “CROSSING THE BRIDGE” AND ULTIMATELY, STARTING THEIR OWN POST-GRADUATION JOURNEYS. THE FIRST WAY I SERVED THE SENIOR CLASS WAS BY OFFERING A TOUR OF THE UCF MAIN CAMPUS. THIS WAY, I COULD HELP GIVE STUDENTS A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT ONE OF THEIR POSSIBLE OPTIONS WAS IF THEY WERE TO PURSUE A BACHELOR’S DEGREE. BUT BECAUSE EVERYONE’S POST-GRAD JOURNEYS WON’T LOOK THE SAME, I ALSO OFFERED MULTIPLE WORKSHOPS THAT COVERED HOW TO NAVIGATE APPLYING FOR COLLEGES OR JOBS, WHAT TO EXPECT POST-GRADUATION AND Q&A SESSIONS.</p>	

Course Connection & Impact

One of the most valuable topics I learned about in my LEAD Spiritual Leadership class was about discovering leadership in the selflessness of serving others. We learned that when you serve others and focus on the needs of others versus yourself, you are able to see a positive impact on the well-being of the group as a whole. This should be any leader's goal.

The "real world" experience of helping senior students was rewarding in itself because I was able to see the students grow in confidence when it came to what their post-graduation plans would look like. This was something I wasn't able to experience myself as a senior in high school, so to know I made a difference in their experiences was great to see. Though it may not have always been easy to work one on one with a student because of stress or anxiety, it encouraged me to be a better listener and more actively cater to specific concerns. Because of my efforts, students were better able to understand the available options college provides and what exactly they need to do or prepare for to see their goals through.

Reflection

Through this project, I was rewarded with the impact my guidance and aid offered these students. I was glad to learn these students trusted me in what can often be an overwhelming process. I believe I achieved my goal when students' growing confidence in themselves became clear as a result of my service. It was great to see that leading them through a series of possible action plans could potentially have a helping hand in ensuring these students could put their best foot forward once starting their post-grad journeys and life beyond the standard classroom. From my own experience of navigating college as a first-generation college student, I was also able to see my personal growth through what I knew as a high school senior versus what I know now. It used to be difficult for me to break out of my shell and speak in front of others, regardless of if I needed to address something important or not. Now, however, acting as a mentor really allowed me to put student's worries or concerns above my own and become comfortable in my position. Serving these senior students really allowed me to see the benefits of putting aside personal gain for the good of others. Similarly, I am confident I will be able to carry these skills I've equipped on with me throughout the rest of my college experience, graduate school, and career, thereafter. When it comes to utilizing selflessness with the intention of helping others, whether largely or simply, this leadership style can always be impactful in whatever position or experience I may be in.

Acknowledgements

I'd like to thank MR. BRAD CRAWFORD, my LEAD Scholars professor for teaching me the impact of selfless service as well as MRS. TIFFANY MARTIN, my former guidance counselor for allowing me to work so closely with my former school's senior class of 2024. It was so nice to see them have such a beneficial experience from our teamwork. I would also like to thank the Experiential Learning division of UCF's Student Success and Well-Being for offering this showcase. It's amazing to see the real-life experiences of my peers and their impacts outside of our normal classroom setting.

Thank you!