

I value authenticity, growth, and connection. I believe in showing up as my full self, even when it's uncomfortable, because that's how real impact and real relationships are built. Growth is important to me because I am always trying to become better, whether that's as a student, leader, or person. I also value connection, because I believe leadership is about bringing people together, creating a sense of belonging, and building spaces where people feel seen, supported, and understood.

My leadership point of view is to lead with authenticity and courage, taking the first step even when I am unsure, so I can create opportunities, build community, and inspire others to grow and believe in what is possible for themselves.

This year, I learned that leadership is not about having everything figured out, but about being willing to step up even when you are unsure. Through my involvement in the African Student Association (ASA), I took on a leadership role because I saw that many students in Boulder were lacking a sense of home. I wanted to help create a space where people could feel comfortable, share their culture, and build meaningful relationships within the African diaspora community.

Through TRIO, I served as a Peer Mentor, which was very meaningful to me as a first-generation student. Many students in TRIO are also first-generation, and I was able to support them by answering questions, guiding them through college decisions, and being someone they could rely on when they did not have that support at home.

Studying abroad also became a form of leadership for me. By taking that step, I showed others in my community that opportunities like this are possible and reachable. After my experience, many people began asking how they could do the same, which showed me how powerful it is to lead by example.

Throughout this experience, I also became more aware of my own voice and the impact I can have when I choose to use it. Whether it was stepping into leadership roles, mentoring others, or sharing my experiences, I learned that leadership is not about being perfect, but about being intentional. I developed confidence in making decisions, speaking up, and trusting myself even in unfamiliar situations. These moments helped me understand that leadership is something I actively practice every day, not just something tied to a position or title.

Overall, my biggest takeaway is that leadership often starts with simply going first. Even when you are scared or unsure of the outcome, taking that step can open doors not only for yourself, but for others who come after you.