

Happy Phatak
4/19/2026

My Growth as a Leader

Values Statement:

I will fulfill my life with gratitude with pursuing happiness and creativity. I will do so by immersing myself in family, acts of service, and surrounding myself with good collaborators. By doing this, I will be my most integral and empathetic self who is open to learning while being sure to establish a solid work/life balance.

Leadership Point of View:

I want to be the type of leader that I would follow. Leadership is knowing who you are first, figuring out your morals and guiding principles and following through. A leader should consistently learn from others and put the goal of the group as the top priority.

Brief Reflection:

I have learned a lot about myself through this fellowship and grown in many ways. The first way I grew was in my communication. Through the media training workshop especially and special opportunities like being in the daily camera article and the board meeting, I learned how to share my story in a way that is clear, concise, and hits the points that I want. I have also developed as a leader. I have been able to carry skills from the inclusive leadership workshop into my current leadership roles and make sure that I really am practicing what I preach by giving everyone a voice. I also grew as a friend which I would say is just as important as any academic growth. Through the fellowship I have gained some close friends for life and gotten many chances to practice active listening and engagement. The most important thing I have taken away from this fellowship is how to set boundaries. This is something that I have always struggled with, and I am so grateful to have met people who have encouraged me to take care of myself. One of my favorite quotes is "you can't lift others up with broken arms" but I don't think I really understood what that meant until this year. All and all, I have grown in many ways that have shaped me into the leader I am today.