

Aspen Rawson

**Values Statement:** I value courage which allows me to lead my life with open mindedness. I will focus my actions around love while centering justice and social responsibility and I will fill my life with gratitude for the world, opportunities, and people I get to know.

**Leadership Point of View:** I am a grower of my community, my family, and myself through showing up authentically and centering justice in my work.

**Reflection:**

The changemaker challenge weekend was a meaningful close out to our fellowship. I got to work with members of my cohort that I hadn't engaged with much throughout the year and practice different leadership skills I don't normally use. My primary focus throughout this fellowship, in partnership with my leadership coach, has been to maintain my organizational skills and to "step up and step back." I have spent much of my life jumping in to answer questions and solve problems thinking that nobody else was willing to. This fellowship challenged that assumption. I learned to shift that perspective as I saw the different forms of leadership throughout our cohort. During our brainstorming and planning meeting, my team members each displayed a different skill which was a powerful reminder that just because somebody isn't standing in front of the room, it doesn't mean they are not leading. We each played an important role, writing and circulating a brief survey, long form interviews (and summaries of those interviews) with family members and education professionals, designing our slide deck, and leading the presentation. Without solid leadership from each person on my team in their roles, our project would not have scores as well as it did. Practicing real leadership skills in a structured but independent setting was a really strong close out to the fellowship.