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2nd Place Essay: Leading without Limits

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Whitney Knox

Reed Leadership Essay

Leading Without Limits

I hate seeing people in pain. In fact, I physically cannot handle it. Growing up, I was the kid who passed out during violent movie scenes, during graphic driver's education videos, or when my health teacher gave a detailed description of his son's broken arm. If I see or hear others suffering, I instantly share in their pain and my heart wants nothing more than to bring them relief. While I used to think of this as some sort of embarrassing curse, I've been realizing more and more that my sensitivity to others' pain is actually a gift from God. That is why if I knew that I could not fail as a leader, I would attempt to serve Jesus as a doctor to those who are hurting.

I am a firm believer that God equips His servants for the mission that He calls them to. However, that does not mean that I'm not at least a little terrified of all of the work that lies ahead of me. I hope someday to be a calming and assuring presence for my patients during a time when they are suffering. Knowing that I could not fail as a leader, I would not be afraid to make the tough decisions that deeply affect the lives of those who entrust me with their health care. With God's guidance and peace, I would be able to support families dealing with a tough diagnosis and carry patients through difficult treatments. When I was younger, I faced a severe health problem and spent a lot of time in the offices of many different doctors. While I am sure each doctor did his or her best to help me, one doctor in particular stands out in my mind. She was a follower of Jesus who prayed over me every time that I was in her office. She held my

hand through the scary tests, comforted my parents, and explained my sickness on a level that I could understand. I felt safe when she was taking care of me; she helped to calm my fears and she lead me through recovery. She treated me as if I were her own child and not just another sick patient. That is the kind of doctor I aspire to be.

I believe that the health care system today could use more doctors like this doctor. Any career in medicine, however, requires a lifelong commitment to education, training, practice and patience. If I knew I could not fail, I would not be afraid to spend extra time researching and studying so that I can help bring relief to the hurting. I would eagerly and willingly use my talents and gifts to serve those who could not afford to pay for the health care I provide. It is my dream to not only work in, but also live in a community where people are underserved, forgotten and unloved. On Christ's strength alone, I would be able to not only aid my patients, but also my co-workers in finding Christ and learning to serve Him.

I do not know where in the world God will call me to serve. Knowing that Jesus would not allow me to fail as a leader, I would have the confidence to leave the United States and start a new life serving people of another country. Leaning on Christ for strength allows me to face any fears I may have and work towards the ultimate goal of expanding His kingdom. If I knew that I could not fail as a leader, I would work to heal physical bodies while pointing people to the only Physician who can bring ultimate healing to their lives.