Who Needs Friends … I'm a Leader!: Peer Support's Effect on Student Leadership
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Peer Support’s Effect on Student Leadership

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Abstract

The relationship between student’s leadership development and the role which peer support enhances it creates a phenomenon, which is experienced at the University of Dayton. The concept of Propinquity explains peer support as a catalyst within a student’s leadership development and provides insight for their various leadership skills and competencies.

Materials & Methods

The existence or non-existence of peer relationships effect on leadership competencies will be gathered through a quantitative analysis within my research. The quantitative analysis will be gathered via SPSS. Peer support and leadership competencies will be assessed via an online survey through SurveyMonkey. The survey will prompt students to answer 10 questions, which utilize Likert scale questions where students will strongly agree or strongly disagree with given statements. From my sample of students I will then run tests to see if my hypothesis has statistical significance or not.

Research Questions

1. Does Peer Support have a positive impact on Leadership skills?
2. What are the strength of students’ Leadership skills (collaboration, controversy with civility and empowerment)?
3. Does the Marianist Mission have an effect on student leadership?

Results

Friends Supported my Involvements
- Active Org Involvement
  - Statistical Significance of 0.002
  - Strong Correlation – 99% Confidence Level
- Marianist Mission Involvement
  - Statistical Significance of 0.039
  - No Correlation
- Collaboration
  - Statistical Significance of 0.020
  - No Correlation
- Controversy with Civility
  - Statistical Significance of 0.083
  - Mild Correlation – No Confidence or Statistical Significance
- Empowerment
  - Statistical Significance of 0.030
  - No Correlation

Future Directions

- The Marianist Mission did NOT have an effect on student leadership skills or involvements
- The Collaboration leadership skill is enhanced by student's peer support systems
- The Controversy with Civility leadership skill was enhanced as a result of students reporting their friends enhance leadership skills
- Empowerment yielded no significance from peer support systems
- Active organization involvement was greatly influenced by peer support systems

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References