

4-5-2022

Leadership in River Stewards

Lyuba Benin
University of Dayton

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/rivers_blog

eCommons Citation

Benin, Lyuba, "Leadership in River Stewards" (2022). *Rivers Institute Blog Archive*. 328.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/rivers_blog/328

This Blog is brought to you for free and open access by the Rivers Institute at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Rivers Institute Blog Archive by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact mschlangen1@udayton.edu, ecommons@udayton.edu.

Tuesday, April 5th, 2022

Leadership in River Stewards

Lyuba Benin, 2023 cohort

The leadership aspect of River Stewards has become more apparent to me this semester as my cohort and I have been planning our senior project with the Dakota Center. Brainstorming and organizing the project have put things in perspective and validated that mine and my cohort's time in River Stewards will foster a meaningful relationship with the community of Dayton. How do we work with real community leaders? How can we honestly address the needs of the Dayton community? Ultimately, after some reflection, my working definition of leadership is being able to share your gifts and talents for the good of others, and River Stewards provides the mindset and resources for us to be leaders. I am excited to continue collaborating and working on the project with my cohort and catalyze real change in Dayton.

A couple of months ago, I also joined the Sustainability Leadership Council, which brings together a variety of clubs on campus advocating for sustainability, such as the Hanley Sustainability Institute, Flyer Enterprises, River Stewards, etc. Although some stewards and I physically represent River Stewards in the council, this position has felt like a leadership position to me especially from the behind-the-scenes work. For example, we recently were trying to gain a faculty advisor for the council, and the emails and meetings that were made to achieve that, cultivated a real sense of the effort it takes to be a leader.

Ultimately, I think what is powerful about River Stewards is that any steward can find their niche related to the river and be an effective leader in a unique way. River Stewards also teaches an important lesson that there is no one way to be a leader, and that the real results of leadership arise from us learning and being inspired from one another, as we do in our cohorts.