

Who Needs Friends...I'm a Leader!

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.



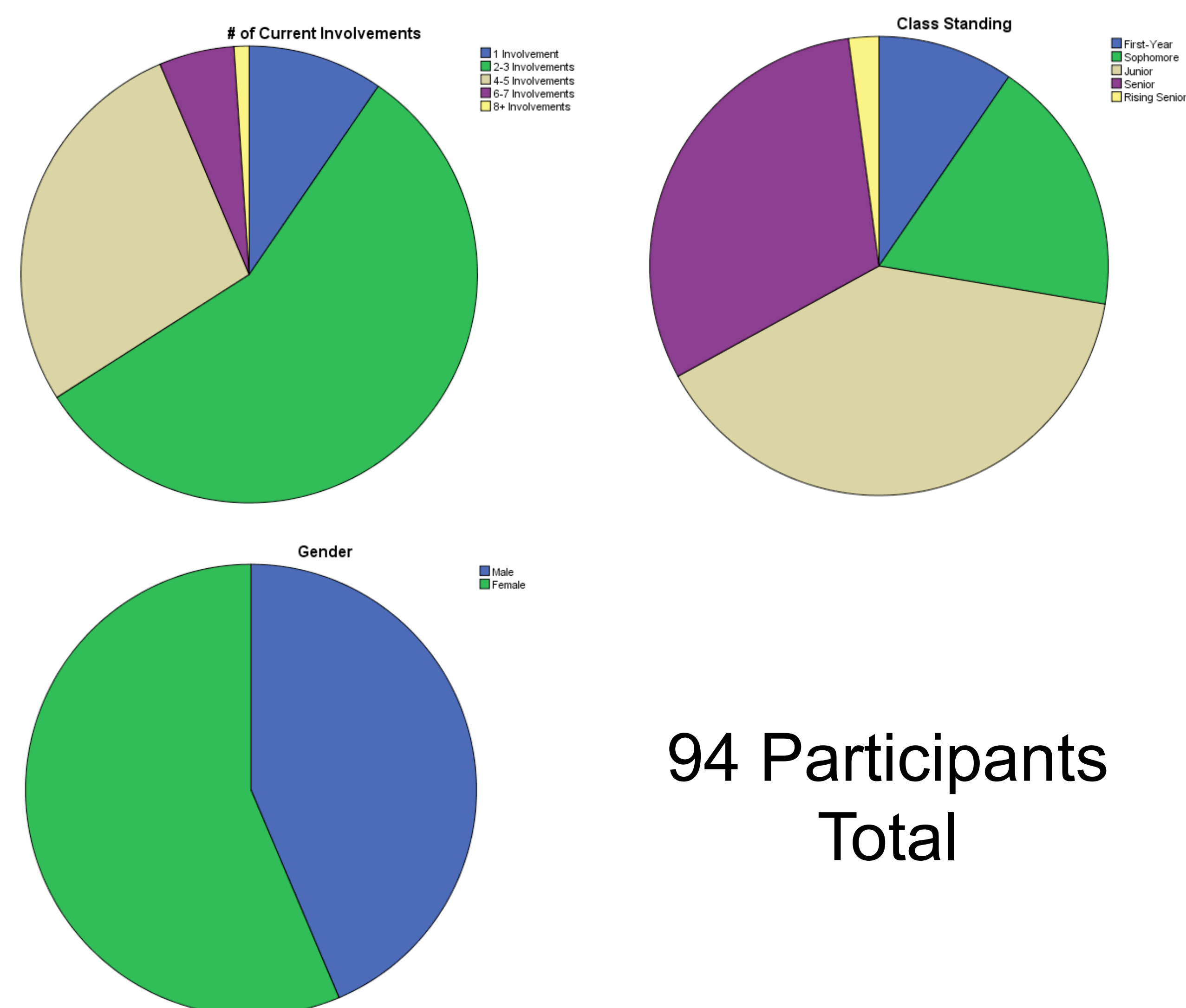
Research Questions

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?

Conclusions

- 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

Demographic & Frequencies



94 Participants
Total

Results

Friends Supported my Involvements

- Active Org Involvement
Statistical Significance of 0.002
Strong Correlation – 99% Confidence Level
- Marianist Mission Influence
Statistical Significance of 0.905
No Correlation
- Collaboration
Statistical Significance of 0.039
Correlation – 95% Confidence Level
- Controversy with Civility
Statistical Significance of 0.620
No Correlation
- Empowerment
Statistical Significance of 0.960
No Correlation

Friends Enhance Leadership Skills

- Active Org Involvement
Statistical Significance of 0.009
Strong Correlation – 99% Confidence Level
- Marianist Mission Influence
Statistical Significance of 0.106
No Correlation
- Collaboration
Statistical Significance of 0.609
No Correlation
- Controversy with Civility
Statistical Significance of 0.083
Mild Correlation – No Confidence or Statistical Significance
- Empowerment
Statistical Significance of 0.110
No Correlation

Tests of Between-Subjects Effects

Independent Variable	Dependant Variables	Significance
Unsupportive_Friends	Active_Org_Involvement	0.016
	Marianist_Mission_Influence	0.306
	Collaboration	0.078
	Controversy_with_Civility	0.864
	Empowerment	0.477

Independent Variable	Dependant Variables	Significance
Support_From_Peers	Active_Org_Involvement	0.002
	Marianist_Mission_Influence	0.905
	Collaboration	0.039
	Controversy_with_Civility	0.620
	Empowerment	0.960

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.

Independent Variable	Dependant Variables	Significance
Friends_Enhance_Leadership	Active_Org_Involvement	0.009
	Marianist_Mission_Influence	0.106
	Collaboration	0.609
	Controversy_with_Civility	0.083
	Empowerment	0.110

Future Directions

- The research question presented was collected with a smaller sample of students as opposed to the original objective. The statistics were gathered form 94 student responses and failed to meet the goal of 100. In addition to, the breakdown of the responses had more underclassmen responses than was originally expected. The responses were supposed to encompass only upperclassmen to help gauge leadership skills in a part of the collegiate years where students are normally more developed. The small sample that was gathered only represents a small fraction of the University of Dayton population and inferences can be gathered, however, more student responses and a larger population would have helped to gather more-in-depth statistics of students peer support and effect on leadership skills.
- Leadership skills are also very numerous and my study only focused on four leadership skills. This presents problems because there are several other leadership skills, which could have been analyzed, but for the purposes of this research and given the time restraint, only these four skills could be analyzed

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