

Belmont University Student Affairs Division Perspective on Leadership and Character

Belmont's Student Affairs Division believes leadership is ultimately an expression of character. It is more about who a leader is, than simply what he or she does. Therefore, leadership roles within the division (e.g. Resident Assistants, Orientation Leaders, Conduct Board members, Student Government officers, Program Board members, etc.) are designed not only to influence and shape the life of the campus community, but to reveal and refine the character of those who serve in them.

The success of the university depends upon the success of these leaders, and the success of these leaders inevitably rests upon the content of their character. For this reason, students are chosen and retained in these roles based on evidence of their exemplary character in addition to their broad repertoire of leadership skills.

In particular, their character is evident in

Their embodiment of the university's character

We are convinced that these student leaders are the true movers and shapers of campus culture, and it is therefore essential that they vividly portray the university's character. Their life and leadership illustrate and advance the mission of the institution and model its highest aspirations for life in community. (Statement of Values, Community Expectations, BU Mission & Vision)

Their cultivation of a consistent life

We are convinced that a leader's success depends upon his or her integrity, and that integrity is borne of a coherent and reliable life across context. In the interpersonal and seamless culture of the university experience, Student leaders' credibility depends upon their ability to conduct a consistent life on and off campus, on duty and off duty, in real and virtual/on-line contexts.

Their commitment to ethical behavior

We are convinced that an individual's success in engaging and transforming the world depends upon the *process* of leadership as much as the product. A leader's conduct, decision-making, and relationships, in pursuit of laudable goals make meaningful and enduring impacts on the community in and of themselves. In short, *how* a leader leads is as important as *what* a leader achieves. Therefore, unquestionably ethical behavior and the highest standards for means as well as ends, are hallmarks of a truly successful student leader.