

Kathy Morgan

From: katiecrouch16@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2014 10:22 AM
To: ecodev@albanymo.net
Subject: Essay

Kathryn Nichole Crouch

Albany, Missouri

The 2014 Missouri Community Betterment Youth Leadership Award Essay

First off, I would like to state how honored I am to be chosen by my community for this award. No matter where I go in life Albany, Missouri will always be home. My community has given me so many opportunities and challenges to allow me to work hard every day. I am always looking for ways to help make my community better, and myself. They have helped me become the person I am today. A person that they call a leader. Merriam-Webster Dictionary states that leadership is: The power or ability to lead other people. I have taken that statement to heart, knowing that I have the ability to help others succeed in life. There are six main leadership qualities that I portray to the fullest, concern for others, taking a stand, setting a good example, volunteering, and taking leadership positions.

Being concerned for others and being able to listen to them is a trait that every leader should have. A good leader will put others first. You must understand that you do not have power over them, but should guide them. This may be presented in different ways, with your actions as a leader or something as simple as your speech. Having the ability to be a friend, and help guide them. Listening to their thoughts and feelings will help you improve as a leader and make you both stronger. There are also times when a leader will need to stand up for his or her friend, showing them you have their back. They will have respect for you and be more willing to listen to your opinions. One of our past projects was visiting the nursing home. We would go and share stories

and something as small as a cookie. This shows you care and that someone is there for them. They were always excited to see us and eat snacks with us. It always made their day better.

It takes one person to stand for their values and beliefs. Standing alone shows strength and leadership. A leader who stands for what they believe will empower others. Leaders learn by standing on their own and then being joined. Voicing their thoughts creates more solutions to the problem. Leaders can help others see that they are not alone. Bullying is a big problem in our school. There have been many situations where I have had to stand up for a friend or peer. Our Albany Community Betterment has made it our goal to help these kids. We have been looking at programs like Rachel's Challenge to bring to the students. An eye opener that even the small acts of bullying can make a big difference in a kid's life.

Setting a good example is another trait I firmly believe can make or break a good leader. I am a Christian. I do not take that lightly either. I make sure that I show that I am a good person through my speech and actions. As a leader people look up to you. I am always thinking about my speech before I say something I would not want others to hear. I also show I am a Christian through my actions. I know I set an example for my community and peers. I am also willing to take on hard tasks. I try to inspire others to live a good life and to work hard for what they desire.

Putting actions into motion by volunteering, helping others and showing them that I care is what I strive to do. Our local churches host a community project called Helping Hands. We go around the community assisting people with chores they may need help with. We have cleaned out ponds, pulled weeds, raked leaves, and other various activities. We saw what needed done and put our work gloves on and helped them. We would like to inspire others to do the same.

Being willing to take leadership positions is the last trait. As a leader you need to be willing to take on the hard jobs. You are there to help guide others through life. I have had several opportunities to lead and teach

others. In the past year, I have been able to go on a mission trip to Chicago. While we were there, we put on several Vacation Bible Schools to teach kids about Jesus, and how he has helped in our lives. I was kindly given the position of head of Bible study. I was preparing lessons for each night. Also planning fun games and teaching kids their memory verse. I was very proud of my kids and myself at the end of the week. We got to witness a little girl come to Christ. It was so exciting, that I may have changed a child's life for eternity. This year back in Albany, Missouri I was also a first grade teacher for our Vacation Bible School. It is pretty amazing to see a child's point of view change just over one week. There have been so many opportunities that I have had to help people that I could not name them all. In high school, in my school work I try to help others understand what is being taught. I am also in band, jazz band, and community band. I work my hardest to set an example for others to follow. I am in golf. I have helped teach my younger teammates how to play. I am a part of the National FFA Organization. Last year, I am proud to say that our knowledge team, even though there were bumps in the road made it to state with 6th place at districts. I have recently been inducted into the National Honor Society. I am so excited to see where that is headed. Lastly, I am president of our Albany Community Betterment Youth Organization. It is an honor to be able to lead people in something so life changing.

Sent from Windows Mail