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Leadership Scholarship Program

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StrengthsQuest Reflection

My first reaction to the Clifton StrengthsFinder was satisfaction. My top five results, in order, are: strategic, achiever, communication, woo and focus. The saying, “Planner is life,” is clearly visible in my academic life. Although it’s completely ironic that this assignment is submitted at the last minute, I do have a strategic accountability system (with incentives and awards) to ensure that my schoolwork is completed on time; I use an agenda and Google Calendar alerts. To achieve personal goals, I draft attainable mission statements and set a timeline; this is focus. This information has guided my personal development by identifying the structure in my life and habits. I’ve learned that I measure success by achievement, and am willing to take every step to ensure that it happens by following a plan. This has expanded my first Johari quadrant window, as both family members and school faculty are well aware of my A-type personality.

I was not surprised at all with communication. I have always been very thorough with explanations, whether it be for my personal diary or a verbal argument in a class discussion. Story-telling is one of my favorite past-times because I can relive and share my experiences, while being witty and entertaining. At LSP Retreat, I confessed one of my most embarrassing moments: peeing my pants on a date. I fed off of the positive energy of the giggles in the room; I felt so alive, despite my utter humiliation. It wasn’t until the following morning that I learned how I made everyone feel: light-hearted, relieved that their “worst dates” aren’t “as bad as Kari’s” and appreciative of my sense of

humor. Their positive feedback made me feel cherished and important. This opened the second quadrant of the Johari window. People have acknowledged my communication skills, but I never truly realized how I was impacting other people. This would guide my leadership development in a way that makes me think twice about what I say and how I say it to other people. Sharing ideas, and engaging everyone in the implementation process, would be key. A great leader would explain and execute the plan in a clear and concise way.

I was somewhat confused with the result of woo. I never quite understood what it meant until I read the description. It rings true. I “start talking with” people all the time, because I thrive off of relationships with others. Sometimes, I do “become emotionally attached to people” simply because I care about their success, be it personal or academic or both. I do tend to “see the good in individuals and choose to overlook their flaws or mistakes.” This may be a flaw in my leadership development, because I have to choose the best people for my teams. It can be good sometimes to give second chances, but I also need to be sure that I have the most effective members that will get the job done. These traits were brought to my attention, a new discovery. It opened my fourth Johari window, the unknown.