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Honors Capstone Portfolios

Honors Program at Minnesota State University,
Mankato

2019

Madison Wittenburg Honors Portfolio

Madison Mackenzie Wittenburg
Minnesota State University, Mankato

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MADISON WITTENBURG

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Madison Wittenburg Honors Portfolio



My name is Madison Wittenburg. I am currently a Junior at Minnesota State University State. I am pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Aviation with a minor in Spanish. After graduation, my goal is to apply for a job in the airlines as a commercial pilot.

Thank you for visiting my site. You can begin navigating through my website by clicking the tabs up above.

My Personal Mission Statement:

My desire and goal is to always help educate and inspire others in world. I strive to absorb as much knowledge as possible. With more knowledge, comes more opportunities. I hope to use these opportunities, not only to better myself, but to help people all over the world break down the wall of inequality. In hopes one day everyone will be treated and respected equally. I strive to be a role model that proves anything is possible with hard work.

HONORS PROGRAM

at Minnesota State University

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Minnesota State University Honors program prepares students for the professional world. The program is designed to encourage students to become world leaders, learners, and citizens. The program provides limitless opportunities and support to its student by providing open doors to gain understanding and experience in the world. The program is divided into three main competencies: global citizenship, leadership, and research.

LEADERSHIP

Upon graduation, honors students will have demonstrated the ability to utilize personal leadership values and guide groups toward a common goal.

RESEARCH

Upon graduation, honors students will have demonstrated the ability to exhibit information literacy skills, synthesize and integrate ideas, produce original research or creative works, and contribute to knowledge.




GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Upon graduation, honors students will have demonstrated the ability to exhibit second language and communication competencies and exhibit cultural competency and awareness.


To learn more: www.mnsu.edu/honors/missionsngoals/

MY PERSONAL LEARNING PLANS

Fall 2017-Spring 2018

 [honors_learning_plan_17-18_.pdf](#)
Download File

Fall 2016-Spring 2017

 [Honors Learning Plan 2016-2017](#)
Download File

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

“ Let us recognize that we are all part of each other. We are all human. We are all one. ”

-Suzy Kassem

A global citizen is aware of their own biases and cultural lens. They are able to set their biases aside and take their cultural lens off, and put different cultural lenses on. They understand that they are unique in a unique world. It takes making connections through similarities and being open minded to differences, to make the world go around.

When I first joined the Honors Program, I thought I already knew what it meant to be a global citizen. I had grown up in a predominately white town in the Midwest, but I thought I was 'cultured' and knew more than most about other countries and cultures in the world. I was under the impression that there wasn't much more to learn because of the foreign exchange students that my family hosted. It's very likely that I did know more and understand more about different cultures than most at my age, but what I didn't know was that there still was a lot more to experience and learn about the world. Fortunately, I was able to enter the Honors Program with some exposure because of my experiences with foreign exchange students and my travels to Europe with People to People. In my first semester of being in the Honors Program, I learned about the three components to Global Citizenship including self-awareness, knowledge and understanding, and communication.

Self-awareness, the first component, means understanding and realizing that you are part of a culture and background. Then with this knowledge, understanding how it creates your thoughts, biases, and actions. I first began to think about my own culture and biases in my Introduction to Global Citizenship. This class taught me what it meant to be a Global Citizen and why it is important. I started to see myself not only as a member of the American culture but more specifically as a member of the Iowan culture.

The second component is knowledge and understanding other cultures. After I distinguished my culture, I started to see the differences between my own culture and others. In the Spring of 2016, I took the Worlds of Dance class. This was an extraordinary thought-provoking class and sparked my interest in understanding how ignorance and misinterpretation can cause friction between two cultures, which has caused a lot of loss and hurt in the past. To achieve this part of the competency, it requires going out and experiencing and learning more about other cultures. I have had several experiences in college exposing me to joys of learning about other cultures at Campus Events like African Night and All Around the World.

Lastly, we learned about the importance of communication and that as part of the Honors Program, we are required to choose a language to become proficient in. We briefly discussed some of the benefits and why learning another language is an important part of being a global citizen. I decided to continue learning Spanish (Español). I took four years in high school, and I knew that it is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. As a pilot, I will be traveling a lot and will be around people from all over the world. Being fluent in Spanish will be a useful and helpful skill to have as I enter the Aviation Industry after graduation. To improve my Spanish fluency I studied abroad in Costa Rica for a 12 week period. While there I learned about the culture, the land, and improved my communication skills in Spanish greatly.

For more information go to: <https://www.mnsu.edu/honors/globalcitizenship.html>



LEADERSHIP

“ The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in the moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy ”

Martin Luther King Jr.

There is a leader inside of everyone. Having power does not make a leader, but having the ability to empower others distinguishes a great leader from a good one. By using our individual strengths, the world has endless potential.

Leadership encompasses many things like communication, understanding, teamwork, and knowledge. This list could go on forever, but leadership put in simple terms is just a relationship. Like all relationships, leadership is built on trust. One must work hard and have the experience to earn the position. Leadership can come in types of shapes and sizes. There is no 'no one size fits all.' I believe that to lead one must have experience, knowledge, and be trustworthy. However, not all leaders are the ones in front. There are always roles to fill when working toward a goal. A real leader knows how to see what needs to be done, then is able to fill the position no matter how big or small it may be. I have had many experiences in and out of the classroom that has helped me learn, grown, and expand my leadership skill.

My first experience of leadership was in the Intro course of Honor's we spent time learning about different types of leadership and working with the Strength Finders book. Leaders have all types of personalities and strengths, and sometimes a certain leadership quality may not work for all groups. By studying different leaders, I develop my own personal leadership values I believe a leader needs and learned to match them with my strengths. My strengths are the ability to empathize, strategize, relate, and be responsible. In different settings, I learned to assess which of my strengths will most adversely toward the set goal. With more experience, I can agree that these are my strengths. This course allowed me to exercise my skills in small group exercises. The exercises helped me realize that sometimes my role may change into something more of a follower or a supporting role.

I then learned and experience how the roles of a leader may change in the Developing your Mentorship class and associated Mentor Programs (Honors and Aviation), I learned what types of models or styles of leadership are needed in different group contexts and how to fill them with my strengths. Within the class, we looked at several historical leaders and local leaders and critiqued their leadership styles. We learned to pull what worked from each of the leaders that we look up to, to help us become stronger leaders. With each project, I became more self-aware of the role I played and how I could have done better by using my strengths and values more. By being part of the Mentor Programs I was able to take what I learned in class and use and practice it to help others.

One place I learned to use my strengths to my advantage was while working with the Flight Team. I began realizing what roles there were and how I best fit into them to help us be a successful team. As a new member, I knew the best way I could help the team was by becoming a volunteer coordinator. We had to create study material and exercises we could use to become better as a whole. I knew I wasn't the best fit to create study and testing material. If one of us came to practice unprepared we all suffered as a whole. Vital roles such as the Captain and First Officer were very vital to the team's success. For those positions, organization and liability were an absolute must. Without them, the rest of the roles come out of sync and nothing works. Within a group, one must find the role that they can best use their strengths to benefit the team. No matter how big or small that role is, it will lead the team toward success, which is what all the best leaders do. Whatever the role you play is, you can't expect others to do something that you wouldn't or couldn't do yourself.

I learned that sometimes there doesn't have to be an already established organization that you have to join to become a leader. Some of the best leaders filled positions that didn't exist. They made the position because they saw a need and decided to fill it. Without realizing it, I did just that while abroad in Costa Rica (Fall 2017). I held a fundraiser to help locals in Quepos, Costa Rica get back on their feet after Hurricanes Nate and Irma. I used my strength (empathizing) and values (golden rule) to help the well-being of others in need. I contacted people from my hometown I knew would jump at the opportunity to help. We bounced ideas around to figure out the best way to carry this fundraiser out. We divided roles and collaborated to raise the money, purchase the school supplies, and then distribute it. The best part was seeing the faces of the students and teachers we had helped.

Although my favorite project was fundraising for the children in Quepos, the experience I hold most dear to me is the one I spend learning from my dad and mom in our family business, Springville Ready Mix. The business produces and delivers concrete. It may sound boring, however, it is highly complex and a lot of hands-on work. Over the years, I have spent most of my time working in the office with the financials of the business, but more recently I have spent more time at the shop learning the ropes. One day I will take over the business and to do so I need to know how to do each and every job we have from the bottom to the top. As the future leader of the company, I want to be able to do all aspects of the job. It's important to me that I don't ask others to do things I cannot do myself.

For more info please visit: <https://www.mnsu.edu/honors/leadership.html>

RESEARCH

Research is surrounding yourself by the unknown. Everything around us in everyday life is the result of someone's research. Being curious, asking questions, and reaching out to learn more is how our world was created and continues to develop.

When I first joined the Honors Program, I learned about the requirement of doing an original research project. I immediately became very worried, and I thought I was going to have to do some sort of scientific research. I have never been great at scientific research. Later, I learned research encompasses a lot more than scientific experiments. My Introduction to Honors class introduced me to the world of research and just how vast it is. In the class, I learned about 4 different components of research: information literacy, information synthesis, original research, and research dissemination. Research can include any of these components or all of the components.

Writing research papers was the main way I developed my research competency. My first research project was "The Unfortunate Events of the Native Americans." I learned throughout the project not only how to effectively find information and properly cite the source, but how to select and bring different information together to paint the whole picture. It started out as just a final paper I had to write for World of Dance, but I ended up presenting the information I gathered at the URS (Undergraduate Research Symposium). This research project had been much different from all the other papers I had written before. It incorporated different cultural views, and I analyzed how the different perspectives created such devastating problems and events. I never expected to be so invested in a subject like this. I was presently surprised at how proud of myself I was. The URS was a wonderful experience that opened my eyes to all the possibilities research can create, and how important research is to our lives on a daily basis.

The following year in the Fall of 2017, I decided to study abroad to start my minor in Spanish. Because I had enjoyed my previous research paper, I decided that I wanted to research something while I was in Costa Rica. For the longest time (even for the first few weeks of the semester) I didn't know what topic I wanted to research. I was signed up for an Honors Practicum that semester and had no idea what to study. My original thought was to do a series of mini-research papers on different areas/topics of Costa Rica. Then I would travel to each of those places. I quickly learned that the bus schedule, class time, and money would make it extremely hard to do, so I narrowed it down to one subject, the education system. I spent the semester gathering and collecting in several ways including conducting interviews, visiting schools and searching articles for as much information I could get for my project. Every time I thought I was done with my research, I ran into new thoughts, ideas, and questions. The research even led me to find myself in a leadership position. I ended up holding a fundraiser to give school supplies to one of the schools close to Quepos (where I lived) because they had lost a lot during Hurricanes Nate and Irma. The project extended my knowledge in ways I never thought possible. It even gave me a wonderful opportunity to help others out in a difficult time.

When I returned from Costa Rica, I took Span210W, which is a writing intensive class in Spanish. I've always considered myself a decent writer, but never one in Spanish. I was very nervous and scared. Especially when our professor informed us that we would be required to write a research paper in Spanish. It took me months to mentally prepare myself for this, but once it came time to begin my research paper. I found myself in a groove. However, the main focal point of my paper completely changed as soon as I started researching my topic. Soon I had a solid research paper in Spanish. The project focuses mainly on a controversial event that had occurred. I took information from several views and brought them together for my final product.

More recently I have been working towards receiving my CFI (Certified Flight Instructor). I have spent many hours gathering and organizing information to create lesson plans in an efficient and understandable way. Everything is so connected in the world and the main challenge I have run into is being able to provide all the information in a way that can be easily understood. Throughout trial and error, I have developed strong lessons for my future students to learn from quickly and easily.

The research projects I have done throughout my time at MSU have taught me just how closely intertwined the three competencies are. I have had many opportunities through my research projects to learn, experience, and become a better global citizen and leader.

For more information go to: <https://www.mnsu.edu/honors/research.html>

MADISON WITTENBURG

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ALL ABOUT ME

I am Madison Wittenburg, a native Iowan. I graduated from the same small town high school. My family, a huge part in my life, provides endless support for my dreams and goals in life. My parents have always encouraged me to do my absolute best in everything I do. My parents taught me that: "Anything is possible if you put your mind to it".



AVIATION

RATINGS AND CERTIFICATES:

Current U.S. Passport

FAA First Class Medical

High Altitude Endorsement

FAA- Instrument

FAA Commercial Pilot- MEL and SEL

FLIGHT TIME:

Total= 280.4

Pilot-in-Command=174.7

Cross Countries= 111.2

Night= 39.2

Actual IFR= 5.5

Simulated (hood)= 79.4

Simulator= 30.1



-
- Manager** May 2015 - Present
Springville Ready Mix (Springville, Iowa) (Summer time job)
Dispatched cement/dump truck, created employees' weekly schedules, collected daily tickets, material, and maintenance reports, and reconcile daily receipts. Efficiently and effectively communicate with co-workers and customers. Assist in filing, ticket maintenance, ticket auditing, cash posting, and invoicing.
-
- Sales Associate** April 2016 – October 2016
American Eagle Outfitters (Mankato, MN)
Provide customer service. Communicate with co-workers and customers. Assist customers in sales, organize displays, stock shelves, and operate cash register.
-
- Aircraft Dispatcher** Nov. 2015-April 2016
North Star Aviation (Mankato, MN)
Dispatched aircraft for the Minnesota State University flight training school, coordinated student and instructor schedules, accurately and efficiently filed paperwork for students' Part 141 flight training records.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Women in Aviation Member, International Member	2015 - Present
Women in Aviation, Northern Lights Chapter Social Media Chair	2016 - Present
Minnesota State University Honors Program	Jan. 2016 - Present
College of Education Dean's List	May 2017- Present
Children's Ministry Volunteer, Hillside Church, Mankato, MN	Nov. 2015-Present
Study Abroad, Manuel Antonio, Costa Rica	Aug. 2017 - Present
Minnesota State University Club Volleyball Team Member	Sept. 2016- May 2017
Women in Aviation Girls in Aviation Day Volunteer, St. Paul, MN	Sept. 2015, 2016
Flight Team Member	Sept. 2015 - May 2016
1st Place in Navigation Region 5 SAFECON	2015
American Eagle Safety Award Region 5 SAFECON	2015
6th Place Message Drop (pilot)-Region 5 SAFECON	2015
WIA United Airlines Flight Operations Pilot Scholarship Recipient	2018
EAA Chapter 642 Scholarship Recipient	2017
Tailwind Group Scholarship Recipient	2016



INVOLVEMENT

[Children's Ministry Volunteer- Hillside Church](#)

During one of the three sermons on Sundays, I volunteer in the preschool and kindergarten rooms. For the children's ministry, we have a sermon with storying time, music, and dancing helping the children learn more about God and Jesus. After we serve the children snacks and set up a craft pertaining to the lesson in the sermon.

[Spanish Club](#)

Member of the Spanish club.

We would learn different aspects of Latin American cultures.

We talk, listen to music, watch movies, eat food, and play games to improve our Spanish.

[Club Volleyball](#)

I played on the MSU club volleyball team as a middle hitter (2016-2017). We practiced twice a week on Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

We went around to different schools in MN, WI, and IA playing in tournaments during the weekends throughout fall and spring semester.

[Women in Aviation](#)

Social Media Chair: 2016-2018

I am an active member. We volunteer at several different events to help encourage young ladies and men to join aviation. (To see events go to Volunteer Experience Tab). In addition, we volunteer in different parts of our community in hopes of making a difference in others' lives. We also do different activities on and off campus to get involved with other Aviation Students.

[Flight Team](#)

Volunteer Coordinator (2015-2016)

1st place in Navigation Region 5 SAFECON 2015

6th place Message Drop (pilot) Region 5 SAFFRON 2015

American Eagle Safety Award Region 5 2015

[Honors Program](#)

I have studied abroad for a semester in Costa Rica. There I took Spanish classes and conducted my original research project. In the future I hope to gain more leadership experience by working as a flight instructor. This program has given me the opportunity to further educate myself as well as gain important experience to help in the professional world.

MADISON WITTENBURG

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CONTACT

** Indicates required field*

Name *

Email *

Comment *