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INSPIRING A DREAM

By Alexandra Champion, Univ. of South Carolina, former Kappa Leadership Consultant



As a sophomore at the University of South Carolina, I was lucky enough to be selected by my chapter to attend Leadership Academy. It was a fantastic opportunity, and I came back eager to share everything I had learned. And while I couldn't have guessed it then, but to put it simply, Leadership Academy changed my life.

After graduating from South Carolina, law school followed and during my three years there, I kept thinking back to how fulfilling my years with Kappa were. On a whim one day, I opened my Leadership Academy journal where I had written down my dream of starting a leadership camp for middle- and high-school girls. It was then I realized what my passion truly was.

It just so happened that around the same time the course I was taking in school, The Law of Nonprofit Organizations, required us to work on a real nonprofit project.

This was my moment!

I shared my dream with my professor and he said that if I could create my proposed nonprofit, the Center for Girls' Leadership, by mid-semester, the class would take it on as our project. I rallied support and with the help of the class and a board of directors, it was soon incorporated as a Minnesota nonprofit! It was an amazing opportunity

to inspire a shared vision—one of the tenets we learned at Leadership Academy.

The Center for Girls' Leadership is dedicated to inspiring girls to realize their leadership potential, just like Kappa's Leadership Academy does for collegians and alumnae. In February 2012, we held our first event for high-school girls, which focused on women in the law. Other career-focused leadership programs are in the works. My next dream is to build a center where girls can take classes after school and during the summer, with camps similar to Leadership Academy.

Last year, as a facilitator-in-training for Leadership Academy, I felt like I was coming home. I love being surrounded by other women who feel the same way I do ... energized to follow a dream and inspired to create a better world.

How has Kappa inspired your dreams?

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