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LEADERSHIP ACADEMY CAPSTONE

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Below is my personal capstone of the four-day Arizona Healthcare Leadership Academy I recently completed. These are my personal views and feelings and do not necessarily reflect the views of others who attended.

Described in 5 words *Powerful, Dynamic, Insightful, Enjoyable, Reflecting.*

Powerful - The instructors, through their knowledge and dedication, were able to bring across a clear picture, or better yet, shine a bright light on the pathway to being a strong leader. They helped us to better grasp all the entities involved in the workplace environment. They gave us access to tools and resources to improve our performance, which in turn will positively impact our organizations and hopefully our professions performance.

Dynamic – The class periods were not straight structured lectures. Instead they involved or more strongly insisted on participation. There were no right or wrong answers, but instead a flooding of new ideas, different views, and individual experiences that were shared to help us learn and grow. Breakouts were used to help us with teambuilding, communication, and negotiation skills, not to mention the wonderful opportunity to network.

Insightful – The guest speakers, let us experience leadership through their personal experiences as they developed into leaders. They let us know it is all right to fall down, but always make sure we get back up and continue on. They taught us that leadership is a life long process, a giving of yourself to help others develop. One strong quote that was stated by Marla Weston, which was told to her by a friend, that I will always hold on to is “Everything will be ok in the end, and if it’s not, then it is not the end”.

Enjoyable – The academy was structured in such a way that everyone looked forward to the next session. The two-week intervals between sessions allowed us to keep up with our daily work requirements, and time to reflect on what we had just learned and how it could be utilized within our own organization and personal growth. The start time also allowed me to touch basis with my unit prior to attending the academy. There was time allotted at each session that allowed for networking in a relaxed environment. It was amazing at the last session how everyone felt that the end had come to soon.

Reflecting - As you can see from the above statements this was not just a “textbook” class. The academy helped me better prioritize and define my goals as I develop into a leader, showed me how to access the tools I need to meet my goals, and reminded me that through our experiences, good and bad, we grow. I strongly recommend this course for anyone who is wanting to make a difference in today’s society.