Student Social Work Association Leadership Reflection

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Tarleton State University

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 From the start, this organization has functioned as a group with no single person taking more of a powerful role than another does. As an officer in the Student Social Work Association (SSWA) at Tarleton State University Southwest Metroplex, my leadership style has been mostly supportive and only occasionally directive. Being an active member of this organization requires the ability to think and act in a logical, organized way that includes working with others to identify activities that will benefit our community, establishing goals for accomplishing the work, and working toward those goals. These activities often include thinking about how to accomplish the work, who to contact, the timeline, setting a deadline, and then prioritizing and delegating the work so it is accomplished in a timely manner.

 In the past, I have belonged to several organizations in various capacities, but this is the first time I have had the privilege to work in a purely altruistic organization with people who are actually working well together and accomplishing a variety of objectives. This group also shows the value of diversity in our membership and the unique experiences many of our non-traditional students bring. Groups I have been a part of in the past have often not Leadership positions I have held this year have been as parliamentarian and as leader of the hospitality committee.

 One of the activities I was involved in this semester was in developing the Suicide Prevention and Awareness activity. I worked with the leader of the group to develop and create suicide awareness mini-notes, which I laminated and then we stuck to candy bars to pass out to people coming into the building. We also worked together to plan a display of a poster and pinwheels on which people could write the name of a loved one lost to suicide. Then we wore our awareness ribbons and passed out the candies and flyers that were made by another group member. Included in this reflection is a picture of this learner with several SSWA group members.

