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“Expectations vs. Reality”

My Thoughts on Leadership, PL, and CPPL100:

This course, CPPL100, has definitely changed my perception of leadership. I now see leadership as something that does not truly involve one person but involves a group of people who have to understand each other. A leader must have an increased understanding of those who they are leading and this takes a group effort. People have to be open with each other in or to benefit everyone. CPPL100 was a very different class than the usual college class. It was very open and conversation-based and allowed for a room where everyone could share their thoughts in a respectful manner. I enjoy being a part of the PL community. It created an environment, despite being online, of inclusion and made acclimating to college all the easier. I am definitely glad that I chose this program to pursue as a “College Park Scholar”.

College Reality:

To say my college vision while at highschool has not lived up to expectations would be a bit of an understatement. While I was in high school, I expected my freshman year of college to feel drastically different from my high school life. Due to obvious outside circumstances, my college experience thus far has felt very similar to my high school experience. Since March, a classroom has been something that I have not experienced. Working from my home has both benefits and some obvious downsides. The ability to wake up and immediately enter my online class has definitely allowed for more sleep in my life but I truly miss the daily routine of going to a physical class. Although this has definitely been a setback to my ideals, I hope to move on through my college journey with confidence and attack each class with my full effort.

Some of the classes that have definitely opened my perspectives are the PL classes, especially PLCY201. I went into college thinking that I was going to like my engineering classes the most, but this has definitely changed. My focus has started to shift into the fields of public policy and I hope to continue down this path further in college. As I move into the second year of college, I hope to intern somewhere within the federal government to see this political leadership from a first-hand perspective. Hopefully, as COVID guidelines reduce, I will be able to have more first hands-on experience within this field. I want to complete actual work within the field during my college life so I am ready when I leave college and know what I am getting into.

Being at home has definitely kept me connected to my roots. I am in the same environment that I have been used to my entire life. I definitely have some attachments that will be hard to break as I move on with my life, but I am definitely ready for some new experiences. I hope to move onto campus for my second year of college and truly have this new experience, just a bit later in life.