

12/6/2022

Notes for Alumni/ Summer Coaching Conversations

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Some of you have seen some version of this material already, and if you're a Summer Coach you'll see some of it again soon. 😊 Thank you for your patience as I share some information about Summer 2023 that might be helpful.

- All of our Scholars are now generally familiar with our emerging model that frames leadership based on connection and commitments, on knowing ourselves and each other and being clear about what's important. Integrity—being good to our word—is one of the central components.
- We've *invited Scholars to participate* in the Summer process for 2023 instead of *assuming* they'll do it. This puts the motivation for a Summer in the hands of Scholars themselves. We've also streamlined the proposal process and have taken out the intermediary drafts. To support Scholars' agency as they plan, we've designed a system of optional resources, including these coaching conversations.
- You might have a conversation with a Scholar working on Exploration, Launch, or Transition Summer, which takes place after graduation. We offered this to two cohorts whose Summers were drastically altered by COVID-19. The Transition Summer is its own opportunity to do something different, try something new, or take on a project or activity without the pressure of having to get to some other goal. Most of the Scholars who did Transition Summer 2022 had deep, powerful experiences, often in the company of other Scholars.
- We're encouraging Scholars to focus internally and to ground their planning on what's important to them and how they want to grow as a leader. Of course they want to settle all the details and figure out the "why" later, but we're asking them to disrupt that familiar approach.

We see so much potential in these conversations. As an Alum, you can say things in a way no one on staff can, because you lived it! For example:

- Summers are an amazing way to learn about yourself and your leadership, regardless of what you actually do, whether it's an internship, research, an art project, etc. Hearing this from you will be so helpful for the Scholars.
- Summers help define the Robertson experience. Wherever you go, you can meet another Robbie and share memories of Summers. You know this for sure.
- Summers require Scholars to actually engage. Scholars create their experiences, which is one of the reasons they can be such excellent learning opportunities.
- Isolation is the greatest challenge for these summers. Scholars can avoid some of that and also build community by planning and traveling with other Robertsons.
- Alumni care about Robertson Scholars and Robertson Summers. Your participation in the process is so meaningful!
- Robertson Summers unfold over time. You are excellent examples of this. For those of you who did Summers with me, I **know** this for you.