

I've never been a team captain or a student body president but I have always tried to lead by example. I've come to learn courage and kindness are two traits of leadership. As a young child, I was introduced to a cousin who suffers from severe mental and physical handicaps. He cannot talk, walk or hear which could be terrifying to any 4 year old, however, I built blocks with him like I did with any of my other cousins. I didn't see him as scary, yet I saw him as another kid who would play with me. When I started Kindergarten, I made friends with a boy that had no other friends. To me, he didn't look different than any other kid; I was able to see beyond his disabilities. Throughout school, I gravitated towards kids that needed a friend. Whether it was someone who didn't speak the language or was challenged in some way, I found a way to connect with them. I wasn't afraid to be their friend. My teachers used to tell my parents that I was a kind-hearted kid. But as a kid, I didn't know I was doing something nice. I thought I was just being a friend. It was easy to make them feel like they mattered because I could see past their differences or disabilities. It was easy to make them feel important. It was the least that I could do because they enriched my life by giving me friendship in return. Today, kindness continues to matter however I am channeling it in a different way. Through my various work experiences I have learned that there is a need to bridge the gap between people with limited abilities and the workplace. I want to pursue my education in business so that I can change this perspective and make an impact in my society. I feel that my passion to unite business and an untapped group of extremely capable people will tear down obstacles. I believe that following this path will help me succeed not only in my career but in the life of many. My name is Pauldean Gevargis and I am thankful for this consideration.