

LEAD Team Testimonials

We asked the LEAD Team grads from the first 5 years to comment on what has LEAD Team meant to them. Of the 40 students, 33 responded. Here is what they said:



LEAD team was an amazing beginning of growth for me. To have a group that focused on the spiritual and emotional development of graduating college students was astounding to me. In my times with Kristi I learned to become more authentic with my feelings and connect more fully with my heart. I learned to discover what it meant to become unguarded with God and with community. LEAD team really prepared me for a life of ministry by equipping me with crucial skills.

- Michelle (Grant) Jacobson (2005 LEAD Grad)

During a very delicate season in our life God graciously placed us on Lead Team. We were in our first year of marriage, seeking to complete our undergraduate degrees, and trying greatly to discern what our next steps would hold! The Lord would use Lead Team as beautiful means through which we established foundational roots for our marriage, developed a deeper understanding of our God-given giftings and strengths, and made the transforming life decision



to become collegiate missionaries. Lead Team was not just a team to us, but our church family in action - helping us to grow in Christ-likeness but also helping us to make Christ glorifying choices for our future!

- Quintin & Chelsey Baldwin (2005 LEAD Grads)



What hasn't LEAD Team meant to us? It has been the place where the small seed of a dream was given a chance to grow and flourish. A place where leaders encourage one another to run hard after God. A place of emotional healing and wholeness. A family of God that inspires.

Team)

- Matt & Sarah Morgan (2006 LEAD Grads, 2007-09 LEAD Ministry

LEAD team means more to me than a college degree. Over the two year period, I was able to grow emotionally, spiritually and relationally. LEAD team challenged me to dream and provided the "tools" to leave college with a heart set on growing in God's wisdom and helping others do the same.

- Lance Stieger (2006 LEAD Grad)



One concept that I learned through LEAD team and continue to use is struggling well. I have already undergone a few big transitions in my years after college, including moving overseas, getting married, and then coming back stateside. And though I've had times of struggle, I now realize that to struggle is not bad, but it is how we struggle that matters. This is an important concept that I hope to keep with me and my family through all the transitions of life as a missionary.

Also, I loved the one on one times with Kristi because it gave me a chance to process through some of my life stuff everything from boys to being a math teacher. I cherished those one on one times and I continue to search for a mentor wherever I am at. Thanks, Kristi!!

- Julie (Theobold) Puckett (2006 LEAD Grad)

My time on lead team allowed me to get more leadership training to supplement what I was getting from Campus Crusade at UWEC. I also remember talking about different truths that helped me be aware of the propensity for burnout amongst those in ministry. The teaching on emotional wellness was also helpful.

- Jake MIsna (2006 LEAD Grad)





Lead Team was a great experience for me to help me work through some tough things going on in my life and I was able to learn skills and take tools w/ me to continue to navigate through life and my walk. I feel very equipped as we're figuring out our roles in the church, our dreams, and life, etc. I am continually thankful for my mentorship time w/ Kristi and what I was able to work through.

- Lauren (Winter) Schoen (2006 LEAD Grad)

LEAD team was really the foundation for a great launch into the "real world" for us. The biggest things we took away from LEAD were learning to have healthy conflict and dealing with our shadow beliefs. Learning how to do these things well has set us up for success in our marriage and everyday relationships. It was a place where we could learn and grow with other leaders who truly wanted to be where God wanted them to be in life.



- Justin and Kristin Bender (2007 LEAD Grads, 2008-09 LEAD Ministry Team)



LEAD team was the beginning of the amazing heart journey that I'm on. It helped to plant the seeds of growth and healing, a deeper faith, and sincere relationships. However, it wasn't until a little later, when I allowed (actively forced) life to slow down, that those seeds truly took root. In addition, DART GUN WARS will always hold a very special place in my life!!!

- Stephanie Barnes (2007 LEAD Grad)

I think LEAD team really helped me learn about myself and who I am. I learned that some of my personality was masking, or something I had learned to do to survive, not really who I was. As a "popular" I LOVED the retreats and getting to spend two days with some great friends that I will cherish forever. (Sara)

LEAD team has impacted my life by giving me the tools and foundation I needed to deal with the beautiful mess that my life so



often is. I also learned that dart gun wars can be cool, and that the Jibben's oldest daughter's right eye has an startling affinity for darts. (Roger)

- Roger and Sara Matson (2007 LEAD Grads)



Learning about personality types and leadership styles and then being encouraged and affirmed in LEAD team was huge for me. It gave me the freedom I needed to live out the strengths God specifically gave me, and showed me how those unique strengths were great and needed.

Understanding other personalities has helped me respond to my each of my patients differently and to see needs that are important to them. It has also improved my approach to conflict in marriage – thanks to quality one-on-one times with Kristi :) (Amy)

Lead team was pivotal in helping me see myself as a leader and embracing what God designed me to do. It showed me how to mark a straight path for my life and how to handle unexpected detours along the way. It has provided me with invaluable tools for dealing with conflict and working in teams. Overall, it has given me the confidence to pursue my calling with vigor and joy. (Jason)

-Jason and Amy (Hildebrand) Price (2007 & 2008 LEAD Grads)

LEAD Team was a great way to work through (spiritually, personally, mentally) a very transitional phase of life. My favorite memory of LEAD Team was one on one's with Ken and learning how to keep a God-focused perspective while contributing to society through a vocation. Ken provided some great insight and background on connecting with the Lord during very busy times and conducting self-analysis to make sure priorities were appropriate. I also really enjoyed the LEAD Team retreats because they were great times to



refocus and dive deeper into potential personal roadblocks to spiritual growth.

- John Trygstad (2007 LEAD Grad)



The way that LEAD team helped me out the most was that it taught me to apply the gospel of grace, through teaching and encouragement, to my unbelief and shame. I remember the shadow beliefs teaching the most; there was a powerful sharing time afterward where we prayed for everyone in the group.

I hope that God is continuing to bless your family and your ministry! Also, I think that last retreat was the last good dart gun war I've had.

- Peter Frick (2007 LEAD Grad)

LEAD team has had a wonderful impact on me. I was challenged on many levels to examine my life as I transitioned out of college. As a group of about 12 college and twenty somethings we tackled some tough issues. We focused on servant leadership, exposing lies, effective communication, and struggling well (because we all struggle). Our group walked together, prayed together and learned together for a year and the growth that we experienced was incredible.

- Josh Holforty (2008 LEAD Grad)



I began to seriously think about teaching in an urban environment during my time in LEAD team. It was such a helpful time in which to dream big and learn to deeply trust the Lord for those dreams to become His reality. I learned a lot about my shadow beliefs and how to overcome fear in a huge way. Though I wasn't dating at the time, LEAD team emotionally and spiritually prepared a foundation on which I will be building a solid marriage in the very near future. I would definitely not be where I am today spiritually if it were not for the amazing supportive community and growth I experienced in LEAD team.

- Dani Tucker (2008 LEAD Grad)

LEAD Team gave me an opportunity to do life with peers who were transitioning out of college. The one-on-one mentorship, authentic relationships, teachings, and the sense of safe vulnerability created a place for us to work through issues and dream boundlessly as we journeyed through the transition phase together.

- Pakou Vang (2008 LEAD Grad)



LEAD Team helped me to understand my leadership styles and abilities so as to lead more effectively. The better I understand myself, the better I can lead others.

In Short.....God used Lead team in my life to encourage me to take the steps necessary to pursue my passion wholeheartedly.

- Paul and Nicole Behnke (2008 LEAD Grads)

These past two years have been FULL of life transitions. From college to an internship, to my parent's home, to Whitewater... and soon into the unknown! I really appreciate the time we spent in lead Team talking about how to transition well, and that grieving each transition is healthy and can help one be more prepared for change. I am also thankful for the community of people that I was able to walk through life with for that year. What a blessing!

- Mary (Erickson) Christian (2008 LEAD Grad)





LEAD team has been an incredibly valuable experience for me, both when I was a part of it as a student and now as a leader. It has challenged me not to be content in settling for mediocrity after college, but instead to fight for more and live out the dream the Lord has placed in me.

LOVE IT! You've become a second mother to me Kristi :)

- Susan Peterson (2008 LEAD Grad, 2009-10 LEAD Ministry Team)

LEAD Team was great! Ken and Kristi put all they have into this ministry, and God is using them to further prepare and equip many emerging college leaders. I discovered a lot about myself, more about leadership, how to work well with a team, what to expect in transition, what to do when things you don't expect happen in transition, and how to pursue my big God-given dreams.



Ken and Kristi play a crucial role in filling the gap between the church and college ministries. They have figured out and understand how to better connect the two, and teach the things that we've been missing.

I am so thankful for these two and their ministry!

- Grant Buenger (2009 LEAD Grad)



LEAD team was such a joy to be a part of! The overnight retreats, one-on-one discipleship, teaching times and overall atmosphere of encouragement and development really helped me to grow both emotionally and spiritually. It has helped me to prepare for this upcoming year of leadership and for the years to come-- how to become the woman God has created me to be, even as I exit the "bubble" of campus ministry that I've been a part of for the last four years.

- Emily Moen (2009 LEAD Grad)

God used LEAD Team in significant ways in my life...mainly by bringing to surface pain that I had buried for many years. My Dad is an alcoholic which affected me in profound ways during middle school and high school. God used Ken and the rest of lead team to show me how emotionally hurt I was and He brought significant healing to my life. It was the hardest but most amazing year of growth I have had since I became a Christian.



- Dan Hogan (2009 LEAD Grad)



I am so grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of LEAD Team. I really appreciated having a supportive community that encouraged me as I was seeking my vocation and trying to figure out my next steps after graduating. I also received so many great tools from the experience to help me during my time of transition that I have continued to use since my time in LEAD Team.

- Megan Allen (2009 LEAD Grad)

Lead Team helped to equip me with tools that I use every day at work in order to work alongside other leaders/teachers. Through the community that I found in LEAD Team, I have walked through a lot of healing and clarifying in order to be able to dream without limits. LEAD Team taught me how to be the best me in order to live out a God-given vision to put back together what is broken in our world.

- Abby Dombeck (2009 LEAD Grad, 2009-10 LEAD Ministry Team)





Lead team has taught me to be able to appreciate my leadership gifts and the gifts of others. It is a community of leaders with different gifts and talents, and I have learned a lot about others as well as myself. I have learned to tap into the gifts that God has given me and to be a healthy leader. One on ones have also been something that I have grown in in a huge way. The practical life and leadership application that I have been able to learn through Matt Morgan and Ken are things that have changed the way I lead. Lead team isn't just about learning strategies and tips, it is about emotional wellness and awareness. I have been convicted in many ways through these teachings where I have been able to take steps to grow in areas of emotional weakness. Lead team is one of the best and important things I did in college.

- Henry Williams (2009 LEAD Grad, 2009-10 LEAD Ministry Team)

I love LEAD team. It is a powerful testimony of God working through the right people, for the right people, at the right time. For any emerging college leader who loves Jesus, LEAD team is essential for not only your spiritual growth, but your emotional well-being. In my mind, emotional wellness is LEAD team's greatest gift to young college leaders. We need it, and if we don't get it, somewhere down the road it will come back to haunt us. For a leader to lead well their heart has to be right, it has to be healthy. In so many ways LEAD team helps young leaders become grounded in who they are through God's eyes and what they are made for. On that note I'd like to say that I love Ken and Kristi Jibben. My one on one's with Ken really helped me process through my personal struggles as well as my shifting theological beliefs. He's a great listener and loves buying



people lunch! Don't let him order any french fries off the menu though, because he's on a diet! Both Ken and Kristi do a tremendous service to emerging college leaders. They care about us, listen to us, worship with us, play with us, love us, and just do life with us. Next generation leaders desperately need people like Ken and Kristi to fulfill this important role as spiritual mentors, guides, and mommy's and daddies. :) The spiritual power of an adult couple pouring their lives out into young people to is nothing short of supernatural.

- Bryan Willkom (2009 LEAD Grad)



I think the biggest thing that I learned is that being a leader doesn't mean that you have to have it all figured out. One of my favorite things about LEAD Team was seeing how people lead in such different ways according to their own unique talents and personalities. It's amazing to see how people stepping up to lead in the way that God created them to is what creates the body of Christ.

It's a beautiful thing!

- Megan Ault (2009 LEAD Grad)