

# Peer Leadership 101: Standing on the Shoulders of Ordinary People

Created by: Brian Poser, Associate Director

Presented by: Dominique Lee and Tsering Yangchen



redefine THE POSSIBLE.

Basic Peer Leadership Training  
Bethune College Student Ombuds Services  
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“A peer-based, Bethune College resource that provides a multifaceted and comprehensive service to promote student engagement, development, and success during their transitional, middle, and upper years, while empowering Peer Leaders to become agents of positive change.”

## **Three Areas:**

- 1) Academic
- 2) Social
- 3) Leadership

# Topics

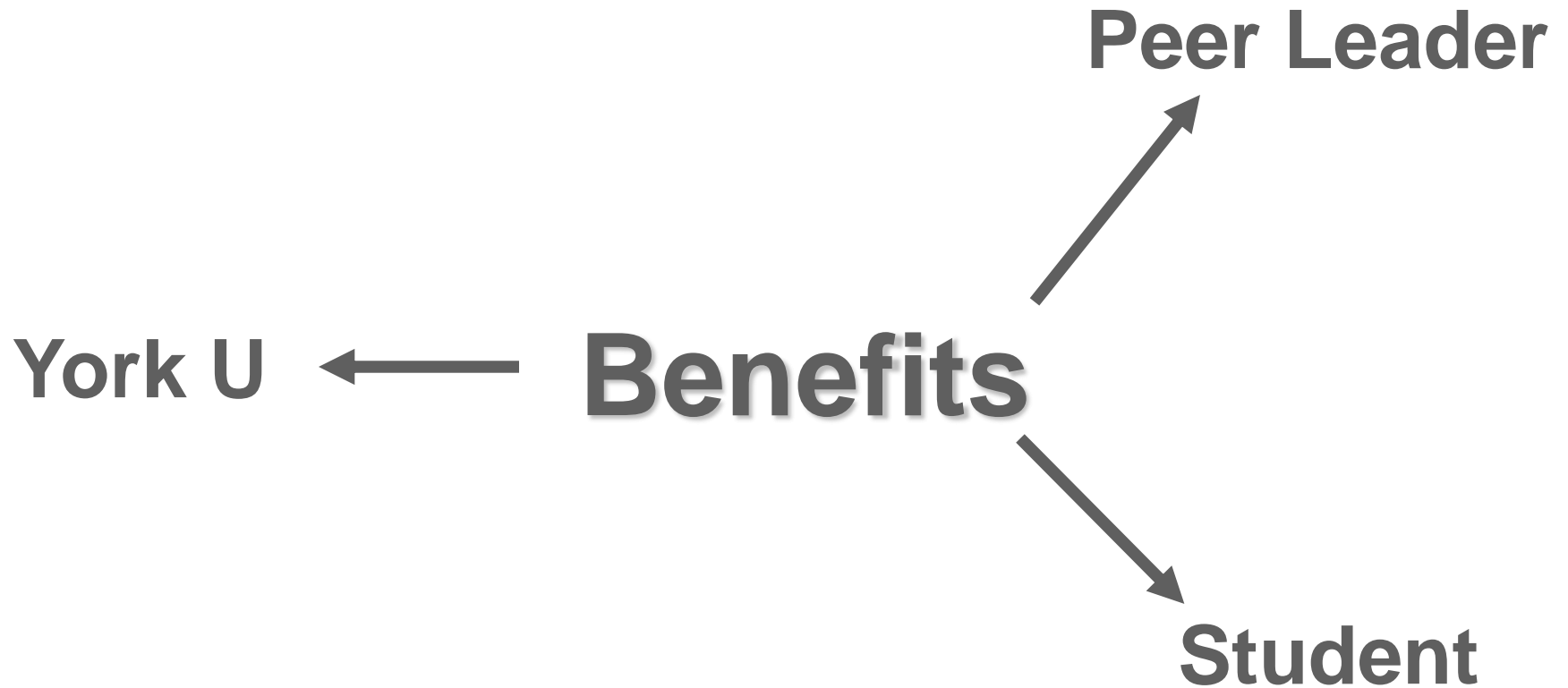


- Summarize the **benefits** of peer leadership
- **Identify** your mentoring/leadership **strengths & needs**
- **Understand** the **roles and responsibilities** of a leader and student
- **Apply your learning to upcoming leadership experiences**

Why do you want to be a  
**Peer Leader ?**

# Benefits of Peer Leadership

# What do you see as the benefits?



# What do you see as the benefits?



## ➤ **Impact on student experience**

- Creates sense of belonging and support
- Contributes to:
  - academic success
  - relationships/networking
  - sense of community

# What do you see as the benefits?



## ➤ **Impact on YorkU**

- Contributes to a culture of success
- Builds awareness of resources



# What does the research say about peer leadership outcomes?



Ferrari (2004)

- **Improved academic performance**, academic self-efficacy and satisfaction with academic programs

Brown, David and McClendon (1999)

- Increased ability to make a career choice and **persistence to achieve goals**

Sosik and Godshalk (2005)

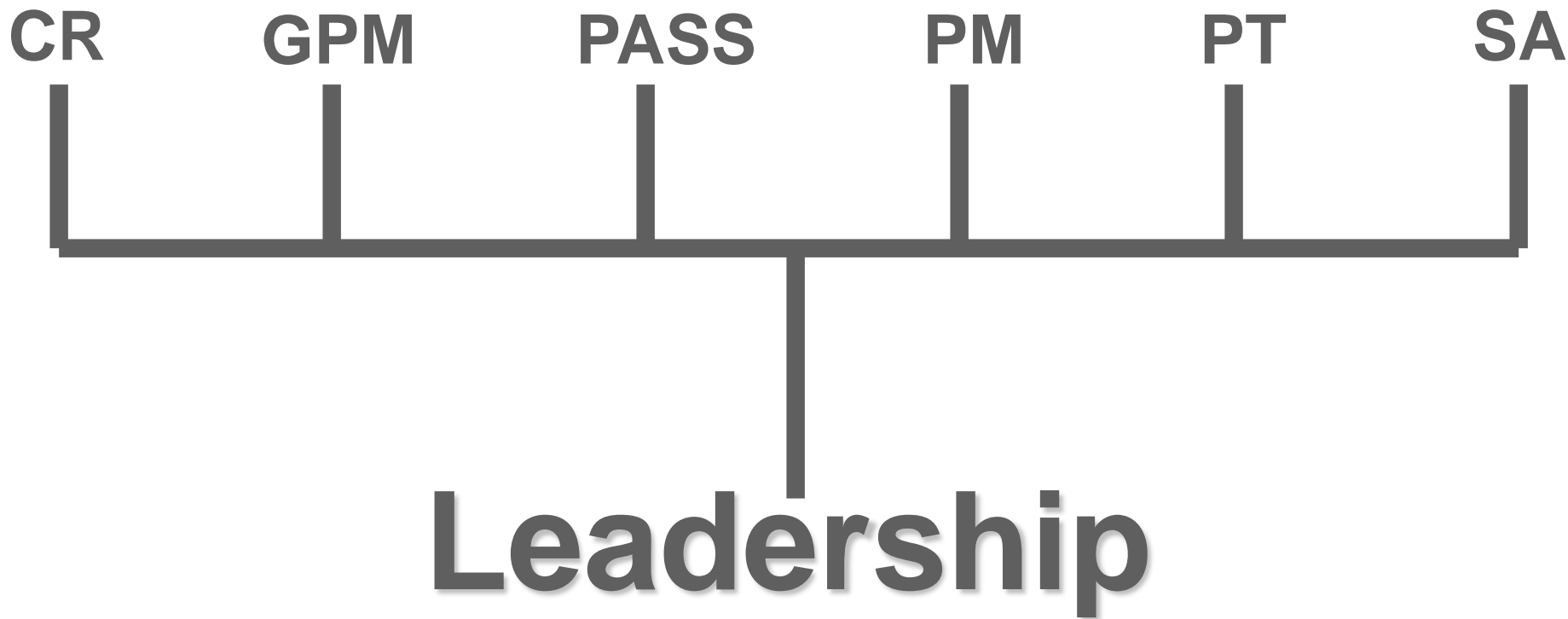
- **Improved interpersonal communications** and psychosocial support

Jacobi (1991)

- Increased maturation and academic responsibility
- **Improved time-management**

Fox and Stevenson (2006)

- Improved academic performance and social relationships
- **Increased acquisition of transferable skills**



# Leadership connection to SOS



- You are motivating and helping students to learn, grow and achieve their goals.
- By doing this, you are working to the betterment of your community.



You are in a position whereby your actions have the power to inspire others to:

**Dream more,**

**Learn more,**

**Do more,**

**And become more...**

# Selecting a Peer Leader

In your groups, take a few minutes to discuss and write down what are the responsibilities of a:

**LEADER**



**STUDENT**



# Responsibilities of Peer Leaders and Students



## LEADER

**Listen**

**Share experiences**

**Foster skill building**

**Refer and network**

**Be one of many influences**

## STUDENT

**Active participant**

**Remain open to multiple  
influences**

**Retain critical faculties**

**Own responsibility for  
success/failure**



## ➤ **The best student - Peer Leader relationships are characterized by:**

- Honest, two-way exchange
- Respectful debate on differing views
- Critical assessment of ideas
- A leveling of the power gradient
- Mutual and unconditional acceptance
- Respect for limits and boundaries



Why have/be a peer leader?



**Why seek the help of a  
Peer Leader?**



What **specific traits**  
are you looking for in a  
Peer Leader?

# Reflection Exercise!



- Reflect on your own traits, skills and qualities
  
- From the previous list, check all the ones that applies to you!

# Final Thoughts



What is one thing you want to take away from your peer leadership experience?