

I am interested in conducting leadership education research with Professor Hitendra Wadhwa of the Columbia Business School. Drawing upon key insights and best practices gleaned from teaching his well-renowned Personal Leadership and Success course at the Columbia Business School, Professor Wadhwa plans to create a fellowship for aspiring young changemakers. Through this fellowship, participants will learn to develop the skills required of leaders; namely, with the help of their peers and of leadership experts, they will work to find the confidence and purpose of inner mastery so as to achieve maximum outer impact.

To properly address future challenges that we're only beginning to think about now, we need to begin training tomorrow's leaders today. I believe the first step to doing so is helping them, through leadership programs such as the one Professor Wadhwa proposes, find a strong grounding in their values and in their strengths, so they become more comfortable and competent working both independently and with others.

I am interested in this research project because of its potential to help future leaders transform their lives, relationships, communities, and ultimately the world. For the thirteen years before coming to Columbia, I attended Ravenscroft School, a PreK-12 school partnered with the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, NC. My classmates and I participated in leadership training integrated into our academic curriculum and extracurriculars as well as through special activities and events, and although I did not appreciate its power at first, I now know from my experience at Ravenscroft how impactful leadership training starting at a young age can be. I experienced firsthand the personal growth an educational environment focused on life and leadership skills fosters, and I am eager to join this research project so I may help others realize this growth.

My research will prompt me to fill a variety of roles, as I will first research what students need and then shift my focus to delivering a curriculum that addresses those needs. I will interview professionals in secondary and post-secondary education to learn how best to reach students as well as other experts in the field of leadership and experiential education to learn best practices for creating engaging and meaningful experiences. Finally, I will begin researching and developing a curriculum for maximum effectiveness with young people and pilot-testing it.