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ETHICS IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

MY VALUES PORTRAIT

You have completed three exercises in which you were provided the opportunity to examine three areas of your values that are important to your role as a person in society and as a professional in the public service. In the space below, combine your interpretations of your responsibilities, obligations, and loyalties into a statement that provides a “values portrait” of yourself.

Incorporate what you identified and discovered in this culmination of those three exercises.

To be clear, you are not repeating the words provided in the previous three exercises. You are not attaching them to this work. This is a new assignment.

You may want to ‘frame’ this description in a way that you could share this with others, so that they would understand your values.

Imagine you were approached by a citizen asking about working ethically in the public sector; or being interviewed for a job and asked how you apply your values in your work; or questioned by a friend or family member asking what it’s like to practice public administration....

In at least 500 words (that’s 1-2 pages), this is your reply.

For those needing a question to answer, select one for the following:

How do you work ethically in the public sector given the great power granted with working in government and great responsibility for taxpayer funds? How do you apply your values in your work in the public sector? Or, what is it like to practice public administration and doing so ethically?

Juliana Bolivar Values Portrait

Reflecting on my values and the experiences that have shaped them throughout my time in public administration, I've realized that accountability, responsibility, and loyalty aren't just principles I uphold; they are the pillars upon which I've built my professional ethos. They inform every decision I make and interaction I engage in, blending my personal integrity with a staunch commitment to the public good.

Accountability stands at the core of my values, influencing how I view my role and responsibilities in public service. For instance, I own my team's mistakes and share in our successes. However, I've noticed how my perception of people changes when they lack accountability, a value I consider key in public administration. Recently, I discussed with a mentor how upset I was about someone's inability to own their mistakes, and my mentor remarked, "You nailed it; that's why government never changes, never gets better." This reinforced my idealistic belief that I can make a difference in my little community by upholding and advocating for accountability.

Responsibility, in both my personal and professional life, involves a proactive approach to my duties. Using the balance of loyalties guides my moral compass. I do not work for a mission I do not believe in, which is why I do not feel work as a burden. I am relentless and tireless in my efforts because I truly believe in what I do for the organization, and I would not work for an organization that operates against my core values and loyalties. This deep sense of responsibility drives me to maintain transparency in all my dealings, ensuring that stakeholders can trust the processes and feel confident in the outcomes.

Loyalty in my professional context means fidelity to the principles of public administration—fairness, equity, and justice. I have learned that it is during ethical dilemmas that we truly understand our loyalties. My most frequent dilemma is managing my time, which is why I am laser-focused on my top priorities: family, community impact, and personal growth. I recognize time as my main asset and ensure it is allocated to activities aligned with my loyalties. This approach ensures that I consistently act in ways that reflect my values and commitments.

Balancing my obligations to my family and professional duties requires much focus and self-reflection. I strive to be a role model for my children who is healthy, sets a good standard, and prepares them for the real world by learning from and owning my mistakes. I have built a life around the things that matter to me and do not let other distractions take my time away from what is important. I avoid social circles and circumstances that lack a deeper purpose, ensuring my time on this earth is spent meaningfully.

When I was considering moving to the South, I had different job offers, but I chose to move to a state and community that valued family as much as I do. This decision was driven by my commitment to my core values and loyalties, ensuring that my professional environment aligned with my personal beliefs. Just as in my job, I believe in education, dreams, and opportunity—the essence of the American dream. This is why I am

committed to entrepreneurship, community, and economic development: I see these as crucial pathways to realizing that dream for myself and others.

Personal introspection and internal and external reviews are essential in maintaining my ethical standards. I regularly reflect on my actions and decisions, seeking feedback and conducting reviews to ensure continuous improvement and adherence to my values. This commitment to accountability and transparency positively impacts the community and the stakeholders I serve.

In my role, every platform and every student who comes to my program is introduced to our constant dilemmas, and I show them the impact of their choices as leaders. This practice educates and instills a sense of ethical responsibility in future leaders. I emphasize that ethical principles guiding my professional actions are the same ones I uphold in my personal life, creating a consistent and trustworthy framework for decision-making.

In summary, my work in public administration is guided by a commitment to accountability, responsibility, and loyalty. These values are not merely theoretical but are applied in practical contexts through transparent decision-making, responsible management, and a loyal commitment to the principles of public service. By integrating these values into every aspect of my work, I strive to serve the community effectively and ethically, ensuring that public trust in our institutions is upheld and strengthened. Whether addressing ethical dilemmas, mentoring future leaders, or balancing personal and professional responsibilities, I remain steadfast in my dedication to making a meaningful difference in my community.