

October 2024



# Future Leaders Academy Update

## Meet Future Leader Solo and Mentor Courtney



### ***Mentor Courtney Lashomb and Future Leader Solo Sangibat***

*connect twice each month to advance Solo's goals and enjoy one another's company.*

As a sixteen-year-old in Mongolia, Enkhsolongo (Solo) Sangibat made the decision to study abroad when she chanced upon a college fair near Sükhbaatar Square in Ulaanbaatar, the country's capital. She picked up a St. Cloud State University brochure, began working on the application, was accepted, and traveled to St. Cloud on her own two years ago. "Within the first month after arriving in Saint Cloud, I had a job, I had an apartment for myself, and I had friends," Solo recalls. "I was already connected with different departments on campus and involved in student government — it was affirming to know that I am a-okay being alone, and I would thrive in situations where I don't have full support or someone to look over me."

Solo is a junior at St. Cloud State University studying environmental science. She is

also a member of think2perform Research Institute's Future Leaders Academy participating in the program's mentorship phase. **Fittingly, Solo's number one value is independence. Her other values include responsibility, well-being, harmony, and loyalty.**

Solo's mentor is Courtney Lashomb, a principal consultant and the wealth management practice lead for Project Consulting Group headquartered in Excelsior, Minnesota. **Courtney's values are security, creativity, leadership, helping others, and autonomy.**

Although Solo values and demonstrates independence, she appreciates the support she's receiving from the Future Leaders Academy, especially as an international student living far from home. "I don't always encourage myself to be confident or fully believe in what I can do, but Brian and Courtney support me in ways my family would if I was in my home country," shares Solo. "That I can do anything, and I have potential, so this is a very wholesome and nice opportunity I'm having."

Meeting every other week for twelve months, Solo and Courtney are working on three of Solo's goals, which align nicely with Courtney's expertise. The first one is for Solo to learn more about how personal finances work. With a decade of experience in the wealth management sector, Courtney has plenty of knowledge to offer. Solo's second goal includes gaining insight into her desired career field through an internship and networking. Courtney's natural extroversion and enthusiasm will likely open doors while serving as a role model. "I would like to be for Solo what mentors have been for me in the past," says Courtney. "A sounding board and someone who's close enough in age but with a few more years of experience so I can help navigate tricky situations or big life transitions."

Solo's third goal is to achieve A1 French proficiency. For a young woman as focused and determined as Solo, Courtney fully endorses this goal. "I recognize a lot of my younger-self qualities in Solo," says Courtney. "It was partly my prompting to add the

French goal because I wanted us to focus on fun, too, and Solo loves to travel.” Courtney's second language is French, and the pair is using the Duolingo app to advance Solo’s language skills. “It’s a fun thing for us to do,” says Solo. “We give each other high fives and share words — I can see her progress and we can nudge each other.”

Reflecting on the Future Leaders Academy curriculum, Solo identifies the values-focused track as highly useful. “There are so many opportunities, so many ideas going around, I learned that it's best to see how they align with my values,” Solo says. “Being aware of what is important to me is giving me an idea of the kind of voice I want to have in this world, what I really care about, and how I can help our future generations and contribute to something bigger.”

While Courtney’s skill set is a great match for Solo’s aspirations, she is mindful of empowering Solo’s humanity and well-being. “If I can help impart anything, it would be that Solo finds integration to help keep herself, all the parts of herself, full and happy and well,” says Courtney. “I have no doubt she'll be successful in whatever she chooses to do in the world.”

Although Solo’s already come a long way, literally and figuratively, based on what she’s accomplished in her young life, at think2perform Research Institute we’re also confident she’s just getting started.

We look forward to introducing you to more Future Leaders and Mentors in our upcoming newsletters. We’re excited to announce that [applications for the 2024-2025 Future Leaders Academy cohort](#) are now available. If you know of a professional who would make a great mentor, please encourage them to apply [here](#).

Learn more about the Future Leaders Academy program [here](#).

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