



TAKING THE LEAD ...



Meet Anika Baty-Mills, LP '21, CEO Columbia Inspired Magazine

Anika joined LHC's Board of Directors in July, 2022. Since graduating from the Leadership Premier Class of 2021, she has been an active LHC volunteer, having served on the **Illuminating Leadership Event Committee**, LHC's **Recruitment Committee**, has assisted during Leadership U's **Summer Week** and, is a **LP Class Rep**.

How do you define leadership?

I believe leadership can be defined as the ability to create an environment that motivates and inspires others to work together toward a common goal.

What leader inspires you and why?

First Lady Michelle Obama. As the first African American First Lady, she is truly a pioneer. Her ability to move into a role that she did not apply for and gracefully execute her many accomplishments as the First Lady was inspiring. It was wonderful to watch this already very accomplished woman accept the role, while being transparent about the juggle of motherhood and family. But what I enjoy the most about Mrs. Obama, is her love of people, and her interest in the health and wellness of people. I admire that she has led, and still leads by example, as she encourages everyone to be true to themselves and find their own way.

What is your favorite leadership quote?

"Leadership is not a rank or a position, it is a choice, -a choice to look after the person to the left of us and the person to the right of us."

-Simon Sinek

What leadership advice would you give a new emerging professional?

Be willing to be a beginner. Beginners are often open and willing to be learners. Our willingness to learn and start from the beginning, directly correlates with our ability to succeed. Listening to, learning from, and conferring with others only makes us better leaders. We don't know everything, and it's okay that we don't. Leaders are not always the person who is in charge, leaders are everywhere.

What would you say to someone considering getting involved with LHC?

Leadership Howard County speaks to my love of people and community. LHC provides the opportunity to learn more about what is wonderful about our community and what needs to be improved in our community. The programs through LHC encourage you to be a part of the change you want to see and teaches us how to engage in dialog that helps move our community forward. Why wouldn't you want to be involved?

What are your go-to hobbies or pastimes?

Reading is one of my favorite pastimes. There's always a book I am finishing, starting, or in the middle of. I also enjoy being active - lifting weights, different forms of cardio, and yoga keep me sane. Last, but definitely not least, traveling; I love discovering new places around the world. I firmly believe that traveling can truly change your life. It has definitely changed mine!