

Powershift 2016

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Mississippi & Louisiana

Powershift 2016

- Grambling University has been a part of the powershift movement since 2007. Powershift is a conference that brings together diverse groups of people to speak out against environmental and social injustices. Some of these issues include racism, gender equality, clean water rights and global warming. Individuals attend workshops of their choice to learn tools in order address issues.



- Students were encouraged to join together to discuss the creation of student led organizations to continue the momentum of the Powershift movement.

“ Why Food Is Important And How To Grow Your Own”



- This workshop not only touched on how to grow your own garden with little money, but on current food issues in our societies.

“ Why Food Is Important And How To Grown Your Own”

- One of the most prominent issues that this workshop touched on was the existent of “food deserts.” These are communities were 33% of the population are without access to healthy food access such as grocery stores and farmers markets. These communities are primarily poor and can surprisingly even be located in farming communities. Food deserts located in farming communities are the most perplexing as it would seem the access to vegetables would be convenient. These farms are usually owned by companies who are required to send their food to certain out of town or out of state locations.

The Solution

- Empowering communities and teaching residents to grow their own food is one of the most direct solutions. Showing these communities how easy getting started can be is one of the most empowering tools we have.
- Creating a local garden where these communities can come together in an organized, affordable manner where individuals can support each other.
- Getting children involved insures that gardening becomes a generational norm. Once these programs are initiated the only way to make sure that they last is by making them appealing to future generations.



- Not only were students and adults encouraged to participate but the younger generation were involved with creating signs and crafts to raise awareness of issues.

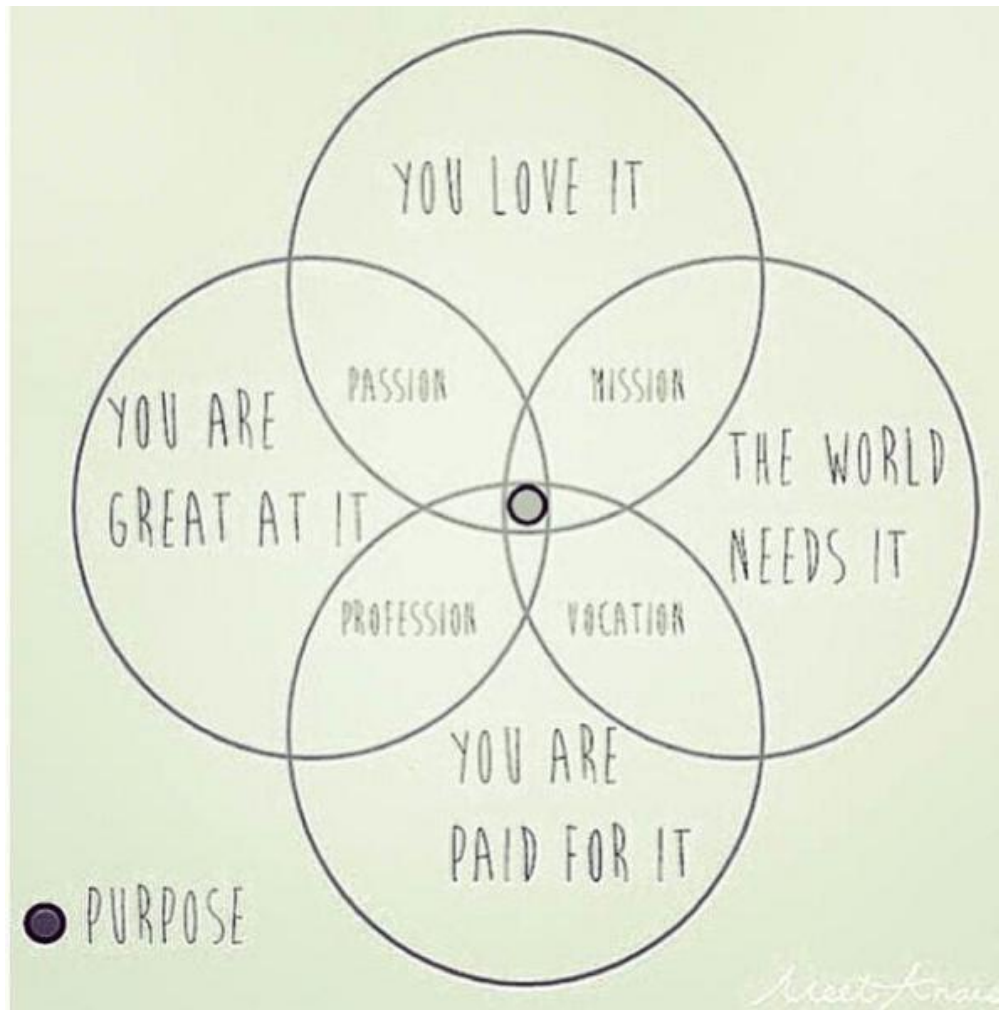


“Leadership Skills”



- In the last workshop I attended speakers presented on tools to implement when put in a leadership role along with how to organize and create programs while learning what type of leader you are.

“Leadership Skills”



“Leadership Skills”

- Building Campus Groups
 - -What mission will your group strive for?
 - -Get attention and market your group.
 - -Get approval through your campus.
 - -How will you fund this organization?
 - -How will you keep members engaged?



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- As the conference came to a close students gathered not only in remembrance of September 11th but to share their stories and what they are passionate about.
- Overall everyone no matter the age, race, gender, sexual orientation or religion were encouraged and supported to speak their mind in a safe and supportive environment. This is what created the momentum of the powershift movement and encouraged people to advocate for environmental and social justice.
- The tools that are taught here could and should be implemented into organizations across our campus to create unity and prolong engagement.