

Tamanna Sonthalia

**He's Got the Power. He's Got the Gas. He's Got Shell.**

A life-changing experience and a journey full of enhancing our high school minds' erudition transpired on the date of February 3, 2018 at India House, when we, the Indo-American Youth Leadership Development Program students, had the splendid honor of discovering and conversing with the one and only, Mike Curtin. From getting his bachelor's in computer science and electrical engineering from Texas A&M to becoming the Vice President of Capital Projects in Shell to being a loving father of two teenage boys, Mike Curtin has shared his expedition of life through personal stories of working at Shell as well as emphasizing on how leadership has factored significantly throughout his part of taking on global management positions since 1998.

Throughout the motivational speech by Mike Curtin, he first indulges into the vision of Shell, remarking on how their goal is to generate cleaner and efficient energy. While discussing about how this will be achieved through energy transition (the process of liquefying natural gas), Mr. Curtin also expands upon the numerous complications that will come forth. In addition, he presents the notion of the cogent "digitalization" in which Shell is trying to incorporate technology's techniques into the 40,000 Shell gas stations around the world.

Articulating into the topic about leadership, Mike Curtin altered my mindset upon how to strive to become a leader and what actions need to be taken. When Mr. Curtin highlights and advises the 3 most remarkable aspects of leadership,

consisting of having a purpose and compelling vision, connecting and inspiring others, and appearing in a consistent way, he inspired myself and everyone around me, exhibiting the crucial qualities necessary in a leader.

Adapting and listening to others as well as accommodating to different situations are the two keys factors I will vitally associate in future occurrences to develop myself as a leader. Being self-aware, mixing others' ideas with yours, as well as taking individuals through changes to attack unique positions should be imprinted upon us teenagers, as we are establishing the future. Nevertheless, communicating with Mike Curtain, one on one, has made my fellow peers and I aware of how everyone can be a leader, not just CEO's or Presidents, through positive thinking and sensible reasoning. Now, take a look at yourself in a mirror and ask, how can I be a leader today?