

Rohit Kalaga

Success in Service

This past Saturday, November 18th, the YLDP class of 2018 was given the unforgettable experience of touring the renowned Houston Food Bank and listening to stories, experiences, and tips from the CEO and President of the organization, Mr. Brian Greene. Mr. Greene is a graduate from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and started his inspiring career working as an executive director at the Second Harvest Food Bank in Knoxville, TN. Later, he served the same position in the Greater New Orleans area before founding the largest food bank in the nation in 1982: the Houston Food Bank. Serving around 800,000 civilians per year, this service juggernaut has made its mark across the country, and it is one of the prime suppliers in the relief effort for the recent, disastrous Hurricane Harvey flooding in our beloved hometown.

A true inspiration and role model to all, Mr. Greene provided us with an insight of how true leaders work through people, establish relationships, and ultimately bring the community to a better place. Noting his strong background as a CEO and founder of an organization, the students of YLDP were truly motivated by Mr. Greene's poise, composure, humility, and his apparent ability to handle the almost infinite amount of tasks on his plate. A message that really stood out to me, which really defined the way in which Mr. Greene portrayed himself, was when he mentioned, "a strong moral compass is not negotiable when trying to find success." The lesson went much farther than success as a business owner or as a leader in the community. It established a platform for all people to build upon, and it gave us a new perspective on life, in which ethics and honesty trump all other options when dealing with our future decisions and plans.

We are ever appreciative of the time and exposure that Mr. Greene dedicated to us students, as we will never forget the many life-changing lessons and the memorable smile and courtesy that he offered us.