

# Project 1

## Title:

Are Undergraduate Students Prepared to Lead in Virtual Environments? An Examination of Students' Preparedness for Future Leadership Roles

## By:

Dr. Anas Al-Fattal, UMC

Dr. Rachel Lundbohm, UMC

Dr. Eddie G. Walker II, UMC

## Abstract

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, remote work has become widespread and shows no sign of being eliminated. Therefore, it is important to identify the skills necessary to be an effective leader in virtual environments as well as train undergraduate students to become effective virtual leaders. This study examines the perceptions of 517 undergraduate students related to virtual leadership skills and their perceived preparedness to exhibit these same skills. Also, a paired samples t-test demonstrates the significant difference between undergraduate students' perceptions of relevant virtual leadership skills and their perceived preparedness to exhibit those skills, specifically, communication skills, technological proficiency, time management, motivating others, employee engagement, strategic thinking, and self-motivation/discipline. The results from this study can be utilized to evaluate how to enhance these relevant skills in higher education curricula to reduce this gap between the perceived importance of the relevant skills and their perceptions of their preparedness to exhibit those skills.