

## **2020 JLI Student Testimonials:**

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*The multi-faceted diversity in the 2020 JLI class brought many different perspectives to all of the topics of discussion. I am thankful for the experience and it has provided me with not only alternative ways to approach tough situations, but also the permission to dig a little deeper into myself and peel back the layers of those who I lead.*

*Bret was a fantastic facilitator. In forcing participants to flip the script and play devil's advocate, it provided an alternate way of thinking about any situation. His real-world application through story telling really resonated with me.*

-Marjorie Weibe-Reed

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*As an emerging professional within the field, this program has provided me with valuable insight and understanding in what it means to be a leader. The topics we discussed during the program are things that will remain with me and allow me to become a better leader in both my professional and personal life.*

-Erika Flury

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*Prior to the start of this program, I truly believed that I had honed in on my skills as an effective leader. I quickly realized that there were many aspects of leadership that I had overlooked and had considered. The JLI program was truly an eye-opening experience and exactly what I needed to bring me to the next phase of leadership. Lastly, Bret is a top notch instructor and has clearly dedicated his life to being a true leader and to creating better leaders!"*

-Malcolm Jones

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*JLI was a great experience that helped me analysis everyday situations from a different perspective. It was great being able to meet and get to know others in Architecture, throughout the state, with varying experiences.*

-George Johnson

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*AIA JLI, through the influence of Bret and the whole 2020 cohort, has shown me how diverse and impactful a leader can be. This program taught me how to continue to grow, learn, and have the confidence to lead in my unique way.*

*-Ashley Gottshalk*

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*Gathering with other leaders in our industry through JLI was such a rewarding experience! The diverse backgrounds of each participant and the real world experience provided by Bret Hood truly offered a rich context for personal development. Unknowingly, this year's course would also render an experience-based component as we learned to adapt to the unforeseen circumstances of a global pandemic.*

*Through it all, I am proud of my peers and what we have accomplished by learning from one another. As JLI alumni, we now confidently join the ranks of strong leaders who continue to advance the architectural industry. Congrats to the class of 2020!*

*-Briana Johnson*

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*Having had the pleasure of working with the program's namesake, I was confident coming into the Jacob Leadership Institute that I would be exposed to concepts that would change the way I think about leadership and the ways a leader can impact those around them. The program went way beyond my initial expectations. It facilitated a deep look into the ways I have been successful as a leader, and exposed areas where I need to refocus my efforts to be the best asset for my team. JLI brought me together with peers from a varied set of backgrounds and experiences, and facilitated discussions that quickly shed light on ways in which I have defaulted to looking at a topic with preconceived expectations of how others would perceive or react to a situation. JLI introduced me to a great group of professionals that I feel will be leaders in our communities both in the profession and beyond moving forward. I highly recommend the Jacob Leadership Program and hope that others in my firm will follow me in taking the course.*

*-Greg Walden*