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Mental Health in Student Leadership: Perceptions of Ability

Rose M. Jardine

Portland State University

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INTRODUCTION

Perceptions of the abilities of our peers have the potential to impact how we interact with the world. Effective leadership comes in many forms. Student leadership offers an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others and illicit a positive, collaborative environment.

This proposal aims to evaluate the relationship between perceptions of mental health and leadership ability among student leaders in university communities.

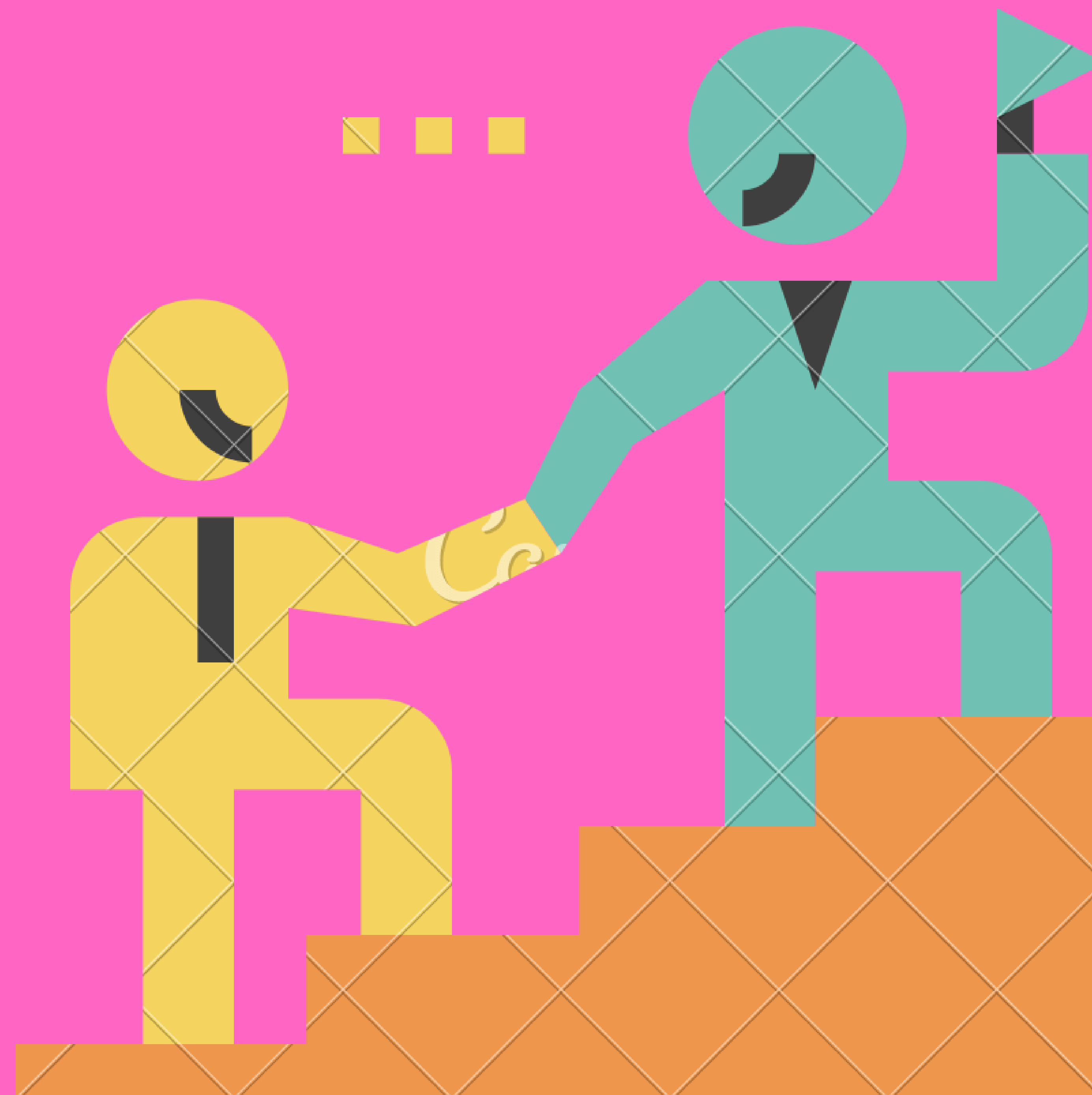
HYPOTHESIS

Those in leadership positions who disclose their diagnosis of Bipolar 1 Disorder will have lower perceived ratings across common leadership traits.

RESULTS

Those who disclosed their diagnosis of Bipolar 1 showed lower perceived ratings in dependability, ability, and trustworthiness. Interestingly, charisma and contribution to campus community displayed higher perceived ratings among these same individuals.

MENTAL HEALTH IN STUDENT LEADERSHIP: PERCEPTIONS OF ABILITY



JARDINE, R.M.

PARTICIPANTS

Over one hundred participants, including faculty and students, from Oregon universities and community colleges are expected to contribute to this study.

METHODOLOGY

Participants will answer a survey and be randomly assigned to one of four situations describing a student leader's disclosure or non-disclosure, both with and without Bipolar 1 Disorder.

They will respond to this questionnaire with Likert scales assessing perceived leadership traits, including: ability, dependability, charisma, trustworthiness, and value of contributions to the campus community.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

With mental health becoming a more commonly discussed topic, it is important to further study how those living with illness are perceived and correlate with disclosure of illness. Investigation of this could lead to new thoughts on the role of mental health, if any, in leadership roles.