

Working From the Heart



Leah Rankin — *The world will never run out of problems so the world will never stop needing willing people. I hope to always be one of those who is willing!*

In some parts of the world, spring break trips are something to be chronicled in all their wet-T-shirt-contest hedonism. Not at Southwestern College. More than 80 students, faculty, and staff traveled to the Gulf Coast to do hurricane relief, and eight nursing students and faculty provided volunteer health care in Matamoros, Mexico.

Campus Council on Ministries (CCOM) sponsored a group of 44 students and faculty that went to Lake Charles, La., and a team of 37 Leadership Southwestern students and faculty traveled to Pascagoula, Miss., to clean debris, roof, Sheetrock, tile, and painting.

Leadership team members journaled their reactions to the trip, and those reactions are represented on this page.



Susannah Willhite — *I was in no way prepared for the extreme devastation we saw.*

Chelsea Epler — *I knew they would thank us, but, wow! Every time we turned around — “We can’t believe you gave up your spring break!” WHY NOT?*

Ali Schmidt — *I cannot wait until the next trip!*

Natalie Carlson — *I have never been more proud to be on a team than working with those in leadership in Pascagoula. Not once did anyone utter a word of complaint about the work — except a plea for more.*

Scott Kuhn — *I’m beginning to see leadership isn’t about helping others and then quitting but helping and never being able to walk away.*

Lauren Pettey — *There are a lot of things all of us could be doing to please ourselves during break. I’m proud to be part of a group that pleases and cares for others.*

Josh Melcher — *We were part of something much bigger than ourselves.*

Kendra Stonebraker — *What is at the heart of their dreams? What’s keeping them going?*

Caylin Larson — *We were working from our hearts and putting our hard work together to form skills that it took to build/rebuild houses.*

Hayley Holthus — *I’m going home with so much more than I set out with.*

Lindsay Morgan — *Sometimes a little bit of progress is enough to completely revolutionize someone’s life outlook; it doesn’t always take fixing the entire problem right away.*



Brandon E. Smith — *Leadership Southwestern is a program designed to help students live up to their potential and now is one of our chances.*

Rachel Pollock — *Something that struck me by surprise was (homeowner) Kim wanting all of our parents’ addresses so she could tell them thank you. I think that this was one of the most gratifying (albeit odd) things of the week.*

Kyler Chase — *I can’t remember a time when I looked forward to getting up at 7 just so I could go to work.*

Cheryl Rude — *Connection with strangers is an experience of God.*

