Making a difference: leadership for the 21st Century

Dr Vanessa Lawrence CB

Definition of a leader

leader n. 1 one that leads

1 chief, commander, director, governor, head, manager, ruler, supremo; captain, skipper; guide, escort; pioneer, trail-blazer, trendsetter.

Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus



Why organisations need leaders

- Provide vision
- Create a collective effort to achieve desired outcomes
- Develop conditions that enable people to achieve
- Inspire performance out of people
- Foster a growth environment which breeds success

View of leadership

'Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.'

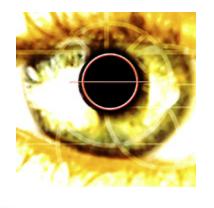
Dwight D. Eisenhower

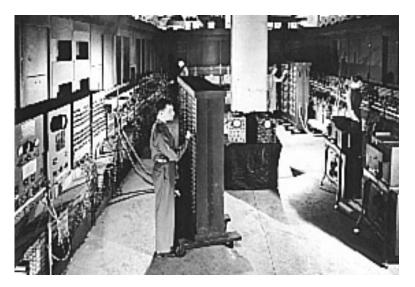


National Archives

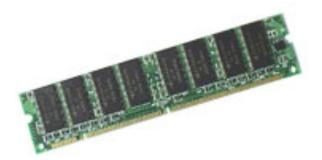
As a leader you must have a vision

Vision must be clear to all It must mean the *same thing* not *something* to all





"In future computers may weigh less than 1.5 tons" *Popular Mechanics* magazine 1949



"640k RAM should be enough for anyone" *Bill Gates* 1981

Delivering the vision through teamwork

- Develop the Vision
- Communicate the vision
- Take the team with you
- Acknowledge strengths and weaknesses
- Have confidence and build confidence in others
- Celebrate success but never be afraid to give feedback

Delivering the vision through teamwork

The Leader must understand at what development stage their team has reached and work with them to get them to the next stage:

- Forming
- Storming
- Norming
- Performing



Differentiating within the team 'Raising the bar'

- Need for differentiation when leading a team
- Reward the best and weed out the ineffective
- Always fight to raise the bar
- Increase the overall calibre of the organisation
- Open and honest approach kind feedback lead to false kindness
- Asking people to leave a team will always be hard. Anyone who enjoys this should not be a leader and neither should anyone who cannot perform this task.

Differentiating within the team: 'raising the bar'

'A' players Top 20% Earn their place and are rewarded accordingly 'B' players Vital 70% Heart of the team - work to transform these into 'A's 'C' players Bottom 10% Under performers remove from the team

The wrong leadership style



One has to consider

- The future culture
- The journey for the staff
- The journey for customers
- The agility of the organisation
- The values of the organisation
- The pace for today and the future
- Achieving goals: 30, 60, 90 day targets
- Partnership working

Are you just making a living and attending....

... or are you making a difference?

'It is not the employer who pays wages - he only handles the money. It is the product that pays wages.'

Henry Ford



Key attributes of a good leader The 4 'E's

- Leaders have Energy
- Leaders Energize others
- Leaders demonstrate Edge
- Leaders always Execute

Key attributes of a good leader

A good leader is..

- focused
- clear in their vision and communicates it to all
- listens to their organisation and its customers
- inspires
- leads by example and 'walks the talk'
- decisive
- seizes the moment
- instinctive can identify the 'empty suits'
- not just a manager
- ..Courageous it can be a lonely job



Three types of courage in the work place

- Courage to fail
 - Fear of getting it wrong means doing nothing and letting others take the prizes.
- Interpersonal courage
 - Courage to say what needs to be said
- Moral courage
 - To stand up for a set of moral beliefs
 Courage cannot be taught

But it's useful to remember



"What would I do if I were not afraid?"

Leadership styles

- Directive
 - Limited discussion dictatorial approach from the top
- Consultative
 - Involves the team in decision making encourages debate and pooling of ideas
- Laissez-faire
 - Only becomes involved in decision making when requested by the team

Adapt style to lead different people

Personal leadership style

- Consultative
 - Free and open discussion participative debate where all attendees have a voice
- Consensus
 - Clarify the situation identify the issues and obtain a consolidated view
- Decisive the final word
 - All information taken into account and a final decision made - limited opportunity for appeal!

Rewards of good leadership

- Knowing that you have made a difference
- Helping others to make a difference
- Controlling the destiny of an organisation
- Acting as a catalyst for change
- Achieving the impossible



Tips for success

- Don't be afraid to make changes... make your mark
- Learn to push the envelope
- Build your own team
- Get your managers on board early and manage those who don't
- Don't be daunted by 'policies and rules' learn to work with those you have to and challenge the others
- Continually challenge the 'norm' don't just accept
- Build yourself a credible and supportive network



Make it happen and make a difference...

but always remember

'IF YOU CAN DREAM IT YOU CAN DO IT'.