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Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) Curriculum

Leadership – What Is It?

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Overview

The essential ingredients of leadership have been debated for millennia. Many find themselves in a leadership position by default and happenstance rather than by intentional choice.

Leadership skills and training is not commonly offered, nor seen as a priority in the scheme of the career training and practice which is chosen intentionally. Though competencies may be demonstrated, the practice of leadership behaviors is often a trajectory filled with trial and error, and it is executed in public.

The group is asked to define leadership and leadership traits. Consideration is given to “good” and “bad” leadership traits, as well as who the participants feel exemplify leadership and why.

- Who are the leaders that you know and admire?
- Why do you admire them?
- What are the characteristics of these leaders?
- How are these different from “bad” leaders? (i.e. dictators, tyrants)
- Choose animals you that represents your image of leadership now and
- The animal image of the Leader you aspire to be

Objectives

After this presentation, participants will:

1. Identify personal leadership experiences.
2. Describe exemplary leaders and leadership qualities.
3. Envision leadership styles and personal aspirations.

Important Teaching Points

- Leadership behaviors can be found in positive leaders and negative ones (i.e. dictators and tyrants), but motivations and outcomes make the difference.
- Acquisition and practice of leadership skills will optimize leadership effectiveness.
- Leadership is often ‘practiced’ in public; gaining structured leadership theory and skills in a safe environment will optimize public performance.
- Good leadership is a complex of knowledge, skills and behaviors involving vision, communication and people skills, as well as inspiration and drive.

Resources / References

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