

Leadership Philosophy

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This one page leadership philosophy represents the leadership philosophy of the author, John W. Lee.

RUNNING HEAD: Leadership Philosophy

The tyrant, the king, the sheep, and the shepherd all have their own strengths and weaknesses. Each can succeed as a leader, and often only the one that is able to expand beyond any one style's conformities perseveres over time. As both a practitioner and scholar of strategic leadership I understand the sentiment that good leadership does not call for a one-size-fits-all approach. In pursuit of continued and sustained success as a leader of meaningful change, I am committed to upholding my core values of virtue, integrity, and diligence while pursuing leadership excellence. Consistently succeeding over time at achieving growth, affording successes, and encouraging teamwork marks a possible distinction between a leader and a "great" leader. By setting goals, communicating effectively, and fostering creativity I believe great leadership can move mountains.

The ability to diligently work toward a goal, even in the face of doubt or hardship, is the trademark of successful individuals and groups. Working hard to accomplish goals, never giving up, and being willing to rethink and adjust, offers a way to pursue even the most difficult goals. As a military officer, I learned that failure to achieve a goal is excusable and quite frankly, expected; however, failure to give the best effort is often associated with lack of success and regret. Similarly, effective communication can mean the difference between mission success and mission failure. In one of my early roles as a manager I was taught the importance of listening deeply. Stopping to listen has proven to be a vital skill for me as a leader and follower. Creating an atmosphere where there are no "stupid questions," and each person's voice is equally valued and heard, allows truly effective communication to occur.

I have made a commitment to setting an example as an effective leader capable of repeated successes while holding firm to my core values. I believe that difficult problems require openness to creative solutions, and today's rapidly changing world demands creative innovation. This innovation can be achieved when the work we are doing as a group is more than "good enough," and excellence is rewarded and regarded. I pledge to work hard toward collective goals, foster open communication between all team members, and create space for new ideas. As my personal leadership style adapts to the changing environments informing collective growth, I will continue to address the complexity surrounding leadership and leadership success through understanding my own strengths and weaknesses.