

Leadership: You Make a Difference



Student Success Series, No. 5

Leadership: Changing Your World, One Good Act at a Time

What is leadership?

“A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent.”

(General Douglas MacArthur)

If ever there were a time to look all around you and see good examples of leadership, this is it.

From the healthcare worker sacrificing her health and time with her family to take care of the sick,
to the neighbor checking on a neighbor or bringing food to an elderly friend or relative,
to the food service workers, keeping food on the table,
and the warehouse workers, keeping food and supplies flowing,
to the student spending extra time on their studies to finish strong,
and setting that example for their brothers and sisters and fellow students
ALL OF THESE ARE LEADERS!

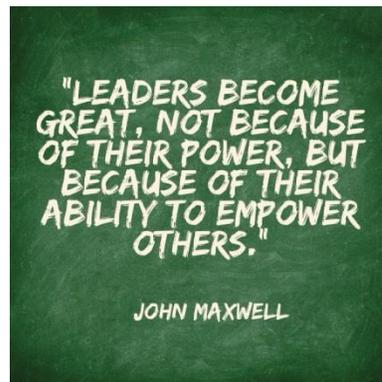
If I asked you to write down the names of five people you think are or were great leaders, I bet you could hand me that list within two minutes. And I would see names like George Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi, Benjamin Franklin, etc.

But what about your parent whom you can always go to for advice? Or your friend whom you can always find volunteering at a local nonprofit? Or YOU when you planned or joined a study group and contributed to the discussion? These are all signs of leadership.

Leaders are made, not born.¹ As we approach SGA elections, think about the difference you can make in the lives of your fellow students. SGA stands for Student Government Association. Students who run for office want to help others, make a difference, encourage students who are struggling, and represent our college in our community and state.



Leadership: It's not just a title, and it's not just when you are standing in the front of a room of people. **It's in your every action and day, both ordinary and extraordinary ones.**



¹ Brigette Hyacinth, *Are Leaders Made or Born: A True Story*, LINKED IN, <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/20141026042807-150905450-are-leaders-born-or-made-a-true-story> (Oct. 26, 2014).

The Starfish Story

Original Story by: Loren Easley

One day a man was walking along the beach, when he noticed a boy hurriedly picking up and gently throwing things into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "Young man, what are you doing?"

The boy replied, "Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

The man laughed to himself and said, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't make any difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it into the surf. Then, smiling at the man, he said,

"I made a difference to that one."



**Consider the possibilities of running for SGA at your campus.
You don't have to be an experienced leader today;
you're going to learn how to be a good leader—day by day.**

**As long as you have a heart to help others,
you're the right person for the job!**

Qualities of a Leader²

- **L: LISTEN**
 - Invite others to share their own ideas. Clarify what those ideas may be. Communication is key, and it involves listening just as much as speaking.
- **E: EMPATHIZE**
 - Show that you care and want to help. Create a team founded on respect and good intentions.
- **A: ACT**
 - Go out and DO. Work. Succeed. Leadership is a choice. Be active in your role instead of watching from the sidelines. Guide, not merely by voice, but by example.
- **D: DEVELOP**
 - Have a growth mindset. Always try to improve yourself, your knowledge, and your goals. Be resilient. Do the same for others.
- **E: EMPOWER**
 - Everyone has it in them to be a leader. Make sure that those working alongside you know that. Always be encouraging. Recognize good work, and be patient when giving feedback. Remember that everyone makes mistakes, including you. That's ok!
- **R: RESPECT**
 - In order to gain respect, you must respect others and trust them and what they have to offer. Know your limits AND your strengths; make sure you know others' strengths, too, and that they have been gifted and can contribute.
- **S: SERVE**
 - This is the most important quality.

Pick a quote from the ones below, or find another one you love. Post it on your mirror. Read it and reflect upon it every day:

- "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader." John Quincy Adams
- "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi
- "Leaders become great, not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others." John Maxwell
- "Real leadership is less about seeking applause and rewards and more about doing the best work you've ever done and having an impact you've never imagined." Unknown

² KURT UHLIR, <https://kurtuhlr.com/10-qualities-of-a-servant-leader-infographic/> (last visited 4/17/20).

Remember:
Don't Worry
We're in this Together!
We're Going to Work Together
We've Got This!

Golden Rules:

Log in to Canvas at least 5 days a week.

Check your email at least twice a day.

Check our website (northshorecollege.edu) for updates at least twice a day.

If your class has a forum or message board, check it twice a day.

Utilize the resources on our website under "Library" and under "Students/Keep Learning."

Practice "social distancing." That means avoid close contact with others as much as possible. Avoid being around people, and when you have to be near others, stay as far away as possible. Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Wash them often.

IMPORTANT: If you have questions or need anything, email successcoach@northshorecollege.edu.

Whatever you do,
Stay positive and keep your chin up.

We believe in you.
You can do it!

