

FOUR POWERFUL LEADERSHIP ACTIONS



So much has been written on the topic of leadership. Depending on what lens you look through to define a leader, many different definitions can emerge. Here are four critical actions that will set you apart as a great leader and have you achieve success for yourself and others.

Visualize the Future: Using your right brain creativity to imagine possibilities. A leader captures “what can be” through visualization of ideas, structures, strategies and results. Consider making a mini vision board.

Vision Board Instructions: All you need is some paperboard, pens, images, and strong words. Make sure they represent your thoughts about the future you want to create. Be sure to include emotions you want to feel. A vision board will send very strong messages to your brain. If you look at it daily, you will tend to do the things that will lead to realizing your vision.

Another great anecdote of a vision board, is it overcomes the negative stimuli you receive daily. That negative stimuli are replaced with positive, useful thoughts which turn into constructive behaviors.

Set Ambitious Goals: Goal setting takes many forms. Consider using the HARD Goals framework from Mark Murphy, Leadership IQ:

- Heartfelt— the goal has an emotional attachment. It is felt at your core.
- Animated—it is motivated by your vision.
- Required—you know that there is a strong sense of urgency and that you have no other choice but to start acting on it right here, right now.

- Difficult—the greatest achievements come from the toughest challenges; reaching the goal will leave you feeling stronger, smarter, and more fulfilled.

Devise an Effective Course of Action: Once strategies and goals have been established, the work of achieving those goals begins. A leader who can help others identify the right resources and anticipate the unanticipated brings extraordinary value to an organization. This is also a place to ***ask the right questions***.

Inspire Others to Enthusiastically Contribute: Without effective followers, there is no leadership. Even in the midst of the many challenges to achieving a worthwhile goal, a great leader is able to keep others steady, committed, and motivated to do more than was anticipated. This is the essence of great leadership. Of course, all actions are inter-dependent. But if a leader cannot inspire others, the end result will always be less than what could have been. Research demonstrates that inspired and engaged people do their best thinking and their best work. ***How do you inspire others? For a start, show them that you care. Share your vision. Help them achieve. Be there for them when things are tough. These actions build great motivation in others.***

How can you demonstrate great leadership **if you do not have an official title**? Identify situations in which you have demonstrated sound leadership in a professional or personal situation. Don't overlook leadership roles in your family. **Families form the basis of our earliest experience with leadership.** What worked? What was comfortable? What was challenging? By answering these questions honestly, you will be able to gain an accurate assessment of your leadership ability. Regardless of where you are on the continuum, there is always room for growth.