



# Positive Thinking and Your Path to Leadership

Dr. Cathy Kemper-Pelle  
President, Rogue Community College

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AAWCC National Conference  
Portland, OR  
October 28, 2016



# Outcomes

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Participants will learn:

- ❖ Importance of positive thinking
- ❖ Importance of staying true to self
- ❖ Key characteristics of leaders
- ❖ Behaviors associated with successful leadership development
- ❖ How leadership development improves the workplace



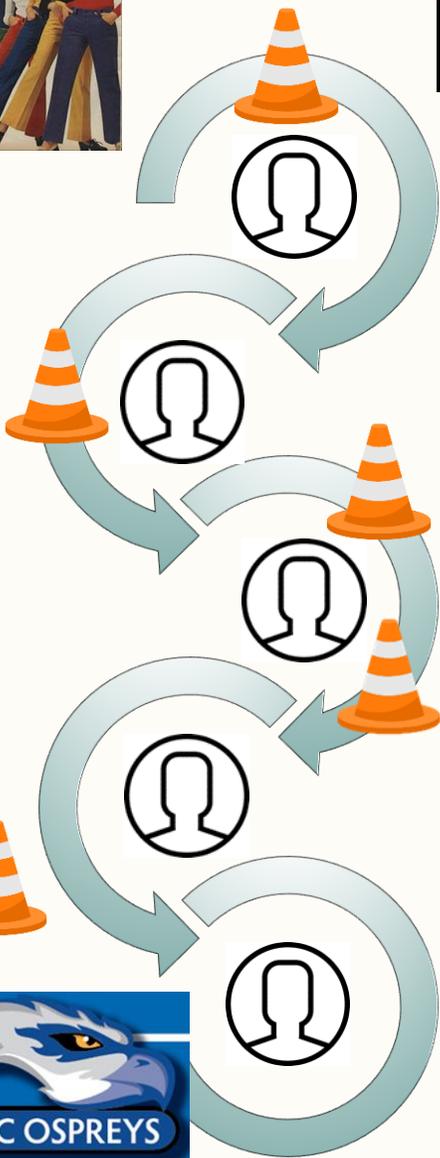
**A leader isn't someone who forces others to  
make her stronger.**

**A leader is someone willing to give her  
strength to others so that they may have the  
strength to stand on their own.**

**-Beth Revis**

**No straight lines?**







# Your Map and Compass/GPS

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- What have been the defining moments in your career/life?
- What obstacles did you need to overcome?
- What people have influenced you to succeed?
- What obstacles are between you and where you want to be?
- What people could influence you to get there?
- How do you recognize opportunities?
- How do you stay positive and maintain balance?



**What one word do you want people to use to describe you?  
What do you think they'd currently use?**

**If you accomplish one thing by the end of the year, what would make the biggest impact on your happiness?**

**What keeps you awake at night when you should be sleeping?  
What gets you out of bed in the mornings?**

**What do you love most about your current job? What do you wish you could do more of?**

**Who do you look up to? Who are your mentors, both those you know personally and those who inspire you from afar?**

<http://www.billgeorge.org/page/30-questions-to-help-you-discover-your-true-north>



**To find your purpose, you must first understand  
yourself and your passions.  
In turn, your passions show the way to the  
purpose of your leadership.**

**-Bill George, *Finding Your True North***



BE STRONG,  
YOU NEVER  
KNOW WHO  
YOU ARE  
INSPIRING



# Characteristics of Leaders

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- **Character**
- **Integrity**
- **Values**
- **Trustworthiness**
- **Creativity**
- **Resilience**

What is her reputation?

Is she honest?

What is important to her?

Is she reliable?

Can she adapt to change?

Can she handle adversity?



**Let me be as a feather  
Strong with purpose,  
Yet light at heart  
Able to bend.**

**And, tho I might  
Become frayed,  
Able to pull myself  
Together again**

**-Anita Sams, artist**



# Key Leadership Behaviors

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- Lead by example; point the way
- Communicate to build trust
- Be committed and decisive
- Use your influence to empower others
- Recognize and reward good results
- Be positive





**For community colleges to realize their maximum impact, strong, stable, courageous, and effective leadership is essential.**

**Leadership – at all levels of the institution – makes a significant difference in how well the institution serves its students and its communities.**

**-Christine McPhail & George Boggs, *Practical Leadership in Community Colleges***



# **Leadership and the Workplace**

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**Institutions that invest in leadership development:**

- Improve their financial/student success bottom lines.**
- Attract and retain talented employees.**
- Boost employee morale and commitment to the institution.**
- Reinforce the institutional mission, vision and values.**
- Increase adaptability of the organization to change.**
- Inspire creativity and innovation.**



# Acting to Create Leaders

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- **Leadership is needed at all levels of an organization.**
- **Develop leaders locally.**
- **Rely on mentors more than workshops.**
- **Provide opportunities for growth on the job.**
- **Celebrate successes!!!**
- **Implement succession planning.**



"Be yourself;  
everyone else  
is already taken."  
- Oscar Wilde



  
**be★  
your  
best★★  
★self**



**Doubt**  
is the murderer of more dreams than  
**Failure.**

**-Prince Ea, *A Brand New Ending* on YouTube**



*What you think,  
you create. What  
you feel, you  
attract. What you  
imagine, you  
become.*



# Resources to Keep Going

- Angelou, Maya. *Wouldn't Take Nothing for My Journey Now*. 1994
- Boggs, George and Christine McPhail. *Practical Leadership in Community Colleges*. 2016
- Brown, Brene. *The Gifts of Imperfection*. 2010
- Covey, Stephen M. R. *The Speed of Trust*. 2006
- George, Bill. *Finding Your True North: A Program to Discover Your Authentic Leadership*. 2008
- Kouzes, J.M. and B.Z. Posner. *The Leadership Challenge 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. 2007
- Roueche, John E. et al. *Shared Vision: Transformational Leadership in American Community Colleges*. 1989
- Ruiz, Don Miguel. *The Four Agreements*. 1997





# Contact Information

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**Dr. Cathy Kemper-Pelle**  
**President, Rogue Community College**

[ckemperpelle@roguecc.edu](mailto:ckemperpelle@roguecc.edu)