

Weekly EMP Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 9, 2022



CLAUDE AND BETTY LOU LAVAL
ENTREPRENEUR
MENTOR
PROGRAM

Exploring Leadership through Four Stories

by

Manuel Gonzalez – Presiding Mentee

We kicked off our Friday session with lunch hosted by mentees **Colton Cunningham** and **Marin Winek**. Over a delicious Mediterranean meal from Doy Grill, we had lively table discussions about the past week's activities and the progress we had made connecting with our EMP Mentors.

After lunch, **Dr. Neil Koenig** led us in an overview of the Fall EMP programming focused on professional and entrepreneurial skill development. Each week will build upon the previous; the overall program has been designed to help us create a strong foundation of entrepreneurial skills to help us succeed in our professional and personal journeys. We are excited about the opportunity presented over the next semester in our Friday Sessions and with all planned activities, including developing a mentor/mentee relationship.



**Dr. Neil Koenig and
Mentee, Colton Cunningham**

During our first EMP session, we were challenged by Dr. Koenig to develop a list of characteristics that define professionalism. We worked in groups of 5 and came up with a list of what we consider the primary attributes of professionalism. During this week's session, we circled back to that discussion to take the long list of characteristics we developed and create one master list that would combine our top 10 characteristics. We will continue to refine this list over the semester. Still, a few of the traits we all agreed are important include integrity, respect, emotional intelligence, preparedness, positivity, dependability, and competency.

**"Professionalism is not the
job you do, it's how you do the job."**



Mentee Briseyda Dominguez

Exploring Leadership

Whether in college or beginning professional journey, situations will require us to step up as a leader. Our 3rd EMP session, led by Dr. Neil Koenig, explored the various facets of leadership.

“A true leader is one that has followers or, as Abe Lincoln would say to be governed with consent.” – Dr. Neil Koenig.



To start our session on leadership, Dr. Koenig shared four inspirational stories that illustrated the different facets of leadership. Although the four stories seemed very different, each illustrates perseverance, hard work, and problem-solving. We were captivated by the courage and the fortitude displayed by each leader as well as the focus on serving others.

Mary Anderson “Do Well by Doing Good”

An outdoor co-op was launched in 1938 with a European ice axe, 21 mountaineers, and a \$1.00 membership fee. *Mary Anderson* and her husband, Lloyd, were avid climbers and outdoor enthusiasts. Mary and Lloyd loved climbing with their friends. One major challenge the mountaineers had was finding good quality equipment for their climbing adventures. Looking for a solution, Mary and Lloyd located an ice axe in Europe that met their needs. Their friends immediately wanted the same equipment. REI was born. The Andersons did not set out to create a business but to solve their problem and those in their community of mountaineers.



In the early days of the Co-op, Mary performed many roles in the business, from seamstress of products (tents and sleeping bags in their kitchen) to shipping and warehousing (in their attic and barn) and translating with their European suppliers that spoke German. Mary’s enduring values--passion for the outdoors, a principled life, love for community, hard work, and perseverance allowed REI to grow and prosper. Mary was co-founder of REI.

Francis Hesselbein “To Serve is to Live”

Francis Hesselbein began her career in leadership in 1960 in her hometown, Johnstown, Pennsylvania, as a volunteer troop leader for the Girl Scouts. After 16 years of involvement in the local and state Girl Scout organization, she was asked to become the CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA. Her visionary leadership helped reshape the Girl Scouts, one of the largest organizations for girls and women worldwide. She left a legacy of professionalism, inclusiveness, and empowerment. One of her famous quotes is, "There is just one reason that we are placed on this Earth. That reason is to love and be loved - in that order." Another one of her quotes is, "Leadership is a matter of how to be - not how to do it."



Raye Jean Montague "You become what you think you are."

Raye Jean Montague was born in 1935 in Arkansas. At the age of 7, she was inspired to become an engineer after she toured a captured World War II German submarine with her grandfather. As an African-American girl, however, she was told that becoming an engineer was simply not an option because of her race and gender. Thirty years later, Raye Montague became the first person to use a computer program to rapidly develop a preliminary ship design for the U.S. Navy. Against all odds, Raye Jean found ways to continue to make her dreams come true: persistence, hard work, and a belief in herself. Raye Jean Montague was a courageous leader that fought the odds and achieved what might have been considered, the impossible. She persisted.



Chelsey "Sully" Sullenberger "Life's challenges can be met if we're ready for them."



Captain "Sully" Sullenberger is best known for the safe landing of a US Airways passenger flight on the Hudson River after both engines failed. Although he has been called a hero, he claims that it was a lifetime of training and preparation and an incredible team effort that ensured the survival of all 155 passengers. Leadership "starts with core values and the willingness to live by them" Further, Captain Sullenberger is known to say, "There is no substitute for thorough preparation, and well-run teams can tackle seemingly insurmountable challenges." Captain Sullenberger's example teaches us that leadership often means putting others before yourself.

Wrapping up this EMP Session, Dr. Koenig described his definition of a great leader. He made three specific points:

- Leaders should be able to bring out the best in people and themselves.
- Leaders should care deeply about people. Great leaders seek to remove the barriers and obstacles that prevent others from achieving their full potential. These leaders strive to create an environment where their followers can do their best work. They practice "servant leadership."
- A great leader partners a tough mind with a tender heart. The ability to be "kind-hearted" and "hard-nosed," two seemingly opposing qualities, leads to leadership excellence. If you want to excel as a professional and grow in leadership, allow your tough mind and tender heart to integrate.