

Leadership Philosophy of Sonya Franklin Burney, Ed.D

A good leader serves as an inspiring, creative, yet innovative problem-solver, who sees with clarity as a...

Visionary, that creates under the advisement of her co-workers, a vision, a mission and goals, which will guide the direction of the department and align with the organization. These goals will be measured effectively for success as objectives are met;

...leading as a...

Strategist, who also discerns the direction of her organization by acknowledging the end results that are needed to operate at a level of excellence and service to its constituents. She will implement innovative ideas and policy as she utilizes scholarly research to initiate objectives, designing curriculum, methodologies, questioning of practices and the use of ongoing assessments. She will use data as an aid in decision-making, and listen to the voices of stakeholders, in addition to tracking growth and development. The leader sharply executes the administrative work needed to support the strategic goals and work of the department/organization without fail;

...speaking as a...

Communicator, who will speak with clarity and positivity, yet listens with compassion and patience. People want to know that their voices will be heard and understood. She will be careful to speak with tact and confidentiality for matters, as they are needed. She will set expectations and establish consensus, which allows for shared power and understanding while the aims of the department and the organization are being achieved;

...working as a...

Collaborator, who is the liaison that collaborates with other departments, staff members, and stakeholders in order to advance the students of the organization. A leader must be able to work with all personalities and backgrounds, in order to meet the common goals and purpose of the organization. She is drama-free problem solver, who does not sacrifice the dignity nor self-respect of herself, or her team members;

...who is a...

Relationship-builder, an effective leader builds a culture that positively influences relationships among all staff members, and students. She knows that culture is a natural by-product of people working in close proximity; culture and relationships can bring a positive or negative influence on the effectiveness of a department. She will set clear expectations of respect and professionalism while remaining service-oriented and compassionate. Building relationships takes time and consistency in order to build an environment of mindfulness and trust;

...because she is a...

Mentor, who is an example to those she is honored to serve. Leaders should also “pay it forward” and serve as role models for those students and other colleagues who are leaders in the making. She celebrates their strengths and allows them to utilize those strengths through responsibilities. She gives counsel and encouragement for areas of growth. The mentor and the mentee learn from each other; it is not a one-way street. She also needs to know how she can be better in serving her department. A leader is also a life-long learner who needs guidance and counsel from a wise mentor, who has an established and effective history in walking a path of wisdom and success. A leader is not afraid to learn from her areas of growth and areas of strengths;

...who serves as an...

Advocate--she is the vehicle to lift the importance of the engaged and effective instruction represented in her department and how it can uplift the entire organization and communicate the services offered by her department. She is supportive of professional learning and developments in order to elevate practices. An administrator believes that in order to be effective, she advocates for training and “cutting edge” technology for global learning that enhances literacy and skills. Administrators should also serve as an advocate to establish business relationships that can support the cause of the department and the organization in serving its students. By becoming the *Advocate*, her administrative role becomes influential at her institution and makes her position more relatable to the community as she grows in this role, while making a positive impact for students across all language barriers and cultures.