4 Ways to Think Like a Leader

The leaders among us have figured out how purpose, empathy, and commitment help engage the team. Leadership is less about innate abilities and more about applying four basic disciplines:

1. **Practice continuous improvement.** Leaders strive for ways for things to get better—within themselves and the situations around them. Professional development not only keeps our skills sharp, but shows others that we're engaged and invested in being our best.

2. **Listen with focused intent.** Listening is more than paying attention to what is being said; it involves being present and showing you care. Often called active listening, engaging to understand another person's perspective ensures everyone's point of view is respected.

3. **Foster teamwork.** Leaders understand that a part of leadership is serving the team and wanting what's best for the mission. (It's not about them.) A leader who recognizes individual contributions has a way of letting everyone know that going the distance means going together.

4. **Be curious.** Leaders won't pretend to have all the answers. Instead, they're constantly seeking information, insights, and perspectives. If you don't understand what's being said (or where a person is coming from), ask and be curious about how they got there.

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