

Overview:

The Barbara G. Doster Leadership Forum is held every other year with the Top 100 undergraduate students in Purdue's Krannert School of Management. This year's event was held in Indianapolis, IN and was titled, "Exploring New Frontiers: Leadership Without Limits". There were several industry speakers and many group activities centered around the topic of developing & applying leadership characteristics.

Take-aways / Application:Scott Harbaugh - NASA Astronaut, veteran of 4 space shuttle missions

Scott spoke on the effect of leadership - both good and bad. He contrasted the leadership and results between the recent Space Shuttle Columbia incident and that of Apollo 13 to highlight the importance and serious effects of leadership:

- Your obligation is to do the right thing
 - *Astronauts on Columbia had 65 seconds between "Loss of Control" and disintegration*
- There is a difference between "supposing you know" and actually knowing
- You must be credible to be heard
- Unless you never make a mistake, keep your arrogance in check
- Flexibility comes from attitude, adaptability comes from preparation
 - *Manufactured & certified a specialized tool to repair the Mir Space Station in 24 hours!*
 - *When asked to take a picture of the Mir, it took 14 pages of flight instructions changes overnight*
- Not every bright idea is a good one
- There's no traffic jam on the extra mile
- Adversity creates opportunity
- Be humble in success

Mike Jackson, President & CEO of Adayana - vertical market-management consulting company

Mike spoke on Leadership and Success and ultimately how much of success is really a reflection of your character and attitude. He also stressed the fact that we should challenge ourselves to constantly learn and grow and ultimately that our focus should be on bettering the lives of those around us.

- "Do the right thing . . . for the right reason . . . without looking back"
 - *What are you good at & love to do?*
 - *Check your motives & evaluate your goals / dreams*
 - *Don't make excuses & don't dwell on the past*
- Have cause - not a job. Make a difference - not a living.
- Image is how you portray yourself to others; character is how you conduct yourself when no one is looking.
- Leading people is like maneuvering a string . . . you can pull it but never push it.
- Managers focus on today, leaders focus on tomorrow.

5 characteristics of a good leader:

1. *Have a vision*
2. *Provide communication*
3. *Be out front*
4. *Be courageous and bold*
5. *Be decisive*

Sarah Turner, Principal at The Faurote Group - professional training & management consulting firm

Sarah was the weekend's moderator and provided many insights into leadership and the application of the various speakers' lessons.

- Your definition of success should not be society's definition
- Leadership is about doing what you say
- Don't be afraid of failure
 - *Hank Aaron struck out 3 times for every homerun*
- Emotional Intelligence - *"the ability to monitor one's own and others' feelings and emotions, to discriminate among them and to use this information to guide one's thinking and actions"¹*
- Servant Leadership - *"listening, empathy, healing, awareness, persuasion, conceptualization, foresight, stewardship, commitment to the growth of others, and building community"²*
- Goal Setting - Establish goals, define the steps to success & tell someone.

"Being a leader is like being a lady. If you have to tell someone you are, you aren't"
- Margaret Thatcher

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emotional_intelligence

² http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Servant_leadership