

President's Corner

Core Values of a Great Leader



I believe that a person's values define the leader. What you believe in, and your experiences determines how you think. In researching core values of great leaders, there are many depending upon the sources of information.

George Mason University expresses eight core leadership values. Leaders guide and facilitate others to make a positive difference in their own lives and to contribute to a larger good. Values inform the application of leadership qualities as the competencies of leadership are activated – learned, developed, and practiced – within the set of core values. By focusing on what people believe and value, and then positively building on this understanding, we have the potential for impact far wider reaching than if we approached leadership development as a problem-solving activity.

The eight leadership values shared by George Mason University are:

- 1 **Respect**, as demonstrated by self-respect and respecting others regardless of differences; treating others with dignity, empathy, and compassion; and the ability to earn the respect of others.
- 2 **Making a Difference**, as demonstrated by personal efforts that lead to making a positive impact on individuals, systems, and/or organizations or positively affecting outcomes.
- 3 **Integrity**, as demonstrated by moral courage, ethical strength, and trustworthiness, keeping promises, and fulfilling expectations.
- 4 **Authenticity**, as demonstrated by consistency, congruency, and transparency in values, beliefs, and actions; integrating values and principles to create a purposeful life and to contribute to the growth of others.
- 5 **Courage**, as demonstrated by possessing a strength of self to act with intention on behalf of the common good; taking a stand in the face of adversity; acting boldly in the service of inclusion and justice.
- 6 **Service**, as demonstrated by commitment that extends beyond one's own self-interest, personal humility for the sake of a greater cause.
- 7 **Humility**, as demonstrated by a sense of humbleness, dignity, and an awareness of one's own limitations; open to perspectives different from one's own.
- 8 **Wisdom**, as demonstrated by a broad understanding of human dynamics and an ability to balance the interests of multiple stakeholders when making decisions; can take a long-term perspective in decision-making.

Source: <https://masonleads.gmu.edu/about-us/core-leadership-values/>

Submitted by Theresa McShan
EWTG President, 2023-2024