



Go Big in 2010

Happy New Year! It is time for New Year's Resolutions and I've set one for myself. I plan to Go Big in 2010. I've chosen this resolution to motivate a commitment to work in even bigger ways to provide services to the hundreds of emerging and established leaders now utilizing The Leadership Connection, my regional resource center for leaders. This resolution derives from leadership lessons I learned in 2009. I'd like to share the three most important lessons I learned as 2009 draws to a close.

First, never underestimate the power of a great idea whose time has come. Although I knew I was on to something when I opened The Leadership Connection in 2009, I was surprised by the significant positive response leaders throughout Western and Central New York had to its opening in Auburn, New York. So often leaders have great ideas and become fearful of bringing them to fruition. I'd like to serve as a role model for others and encourage leaders to ready, fire, and aim great ideas as part of their leadership in the New Year. You never know the potential positive impact these ideas may have on your company. If you have a great idea and believe its time has come I encourage you to act on it in 2010.

The second important leadership lesson I learned in 2009 is the importance of intentionally paying forward one's leadership success in the community. I hold this as an important personal value. It occurred to me that there is so much more I can and should do in Cayuga County to ensure the success of the next generation of leaders. I am a bit embarrassed to admit how surprised I was to learn that many in my own backyard have no idea about the work I do with leaders. Now that I am aware of this, in 2010 I am committing to do all I can to make my company and its services more available to leaders in Cayuga County through creative collaboration, scholarships as possible, and contributions to the growth and development of youth leaders. This is the least I can do since my own journey as a professional leader began when I was recruited to Auburn by one of its finest leaders in 1980. I am proud to become part of our great tradition of creating opportunity for emerging leaders in our community.

The final leadership lesson learned has to do with courage. Throughout 2009 I found myself in the midst of what I describe as "David versus Goliath" moments. Like many leaders I found myself challenged by issues that seemed like "giants" in the moment. Many were challenging and initially frightening. However, somehow I found the courage to slay these "giants" by standing firmly in my purpose, integrity, values and truth. This is not always easy to do as a leader because doing so can impact you personally and financially. As the "giants" fell one by one I was reminded that at the end of the day all you really have is your integrity and your reputation. When you stand these things you will be successful no matter how "giant" an issue may seem.

I hope the sharing of these lessons inspires other leaders to reflect on lessons learned in 2009. Set goals for your leadership in 2010 and find the courage to "Go Big" in bringing them to fruition. May 2010 be full of success for leaders throughout our region. Thanks for the opportunity to share my ideas about leadership with you in 2009. I look forward to continuing to do so in 2010. Onward and Upward!