



## The Leadership Journey

I see great leaders everywhere. Supporting people as they muster the confidence, competence, and courage to lead is my greatest passion. My work as a leadership development consultant provides me with the privilege of supporting leaders throughout Central and Western New York as they tackle the responsibilities of leadership. My work with these amazing people led to an observation that fuels my work, **leadership development is an ever-evolving journey.**

This observation motivates me to learn all I can about the making of excellent leaders. This observation inspires me to have “no holds barred” conversations about the daily realities of leadership. This observation gives me the courage to begin this monthly column about leadership development for my hometown newspaper The Citizen.

I work all over the state of New York. However this travel does not preclude me from joining with other Auburn leaders to ensure we reach our highest potential. This is a great time to be a leader in Auburn. The community has the energy of a plane just before take off. The community is full of interesting tension and excitement as we position for increased success. I believe with the right infusion of resources and the right convergence of leadership we can do anything. We are on the cusp of another wave of greatness. What we do now in terms of showing up as leaders really matters.

With this in mind it is my intention to use this column to offer personal observations, information, and inspiration to any person or group interested in honing skills that enhance one’s ability to lead. In addition, writing this column is a great way to make sure I remain focused on my own leadership development. In the words of leadership expert John Maxwell, **“When a leader thinks they are done changing, they are done.”** I agree with this and hope my column sparks personal reflection. I hope it sparks dialogue in the community, businesses and organizations about the importance of great leadership. I hope it moves others to consciously embark on the leadership journey. We live in a region of New York State with an amazing legacy of leadership. Many of our nation’s greatest leaders developed in Auburn. When we look at their lives it is easy to notice how their leadership journey and work with others contributed to the greatness of our country. This legacy of leadership is a form of generational wealth we can capitalize on as we work together to make community dreams come true.

It is my hope **The Leadership Journey** column adds to this legacy in some small way. Onward and Upward leaders!

*Gwen Webber-McLeod is the President/CEO of gweninc. and Auburn based leadership development corporation serving established and emerging leaders throughout New York State. She is a seasoned professional leader devoted to supporting individuals in becoming confident, competent, courageous and calm in the profession of leadership. Contact Gwen Webber-McLeod at [www.gweninc.com](http://www.gweninc.com).*