

The 7 Qualities That Innovative Leaders Share

By: Deb Bell

Innovative leaders come in all shapes and sizes, but there are seven key characteristics that they all have in common. Read through each and see where you can develop these characteristics in yourself to improve your leadership qualities.

Strategic Vision

Every innovative leader has a vision for where they want to go and a strategy for how to get there. They can apply their strategy ideas to see what works and what doesn't, and then evaluate the results of their efforts against their vision.

Good Listening Skills

Innovative leaders listen more than they talk. Rather than sharing their own ideas, they listen to the ideas of team members, colleagues, thought leaders, and customers. This is valuable information that directs the leader toward the right course of action.

An Instrument for Change

To an innovative leader, the status quo is the enemy. Even when things seem to be going perfectly well, a leader looks for changes and opportunities. A leader lives in the future and can't help making the changes he or she thinks need to be changed. A leader is also flexible, and can handle it when things don't turn out as planned.

Risk-Taking

Leaders aren't afraid to take risks and they see failure as a learning opportunity. Everything gets chalked up to experience. Study the life of any great innovator and you'll see that there were 99 failures before the smashing success that changed the world. A good leader can separate their ego and emotions from the outcomes of their actions.

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Good Communication

A leader communicates directly and openly with others. He or she is accessible and the members of his or her organization feel comfortable approaching him or her. A good leader also facilitates good communication in their team and throughout their organization.

A Curious Nature

Leaders are relentless question askers. They want to know everything about everything because you never know what kind of information you can use. Even for matters that don't seem to directly influence business, they want to know. Knowledge is power and a good leader wants to know a great deal across fields.

Good Company

People with the above qualities surround themselves with similar individuals. They choose people for their team or organization that display the same leadership abilities, and they don't waste their time with people who are negative or toxic to the work environment. This creates an organization where everyone is a leader and it's not a top-down organization. With each person contributing, an organization can reach its fullest potential.

The good news is that these seven qualities can all be learned. They don't have to be natural strengths. You can work on cultivating these qualities in yourself, and you can also create an organizational culture that encourages these traits.

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Deb Bell is the founder of Powerful Aha Moments a training, speaking and coaching company and a Licensed Community Association Manager with Powerhouse Executives. She is a licensed Realtor™ and Insurance Specialist. Her leadership skills have extended over more than twenty-five years.

Deb is an experienced trainer and speaker, certified by The John Maxwell Team and Peak Potentials. She teaches the Community Association Management pre-licensing course for Bob Hogue School of Real Estate. Deb has trained hundreds of people in a variety of industries. She primarily teaches and speaks in the community association management, financial services and real estate industries.

Deb is able to take very complex and cumbersome processes and develop a simple step by step approach that will lead to success. She has helped organizations develop and implement new systems, along with assisted new business leaders and sales associates to reach their desired positions in the marketplace. The knowledge Deb provides, will energize, empower and focus you and your organization to rise to your full potential, where you too will have a Powerful Aha Moment!

Deb has been married for more than 26 years and has two daughters and two grandchildren. In her spare time, she enjoys taking to the road and riding her Harley Davidson motorcycle and teaching others to ride safely as a Nationally Certified Rider Coach through Motorcycle Safety Foundation and Harley Davidson™ Riding Academy.

To learn more about Deb and how she can help you and your organization visit: www.PowerfulAhaMoments.com

"I engage and activate Greatness in teams and individuals through life changing training and coaching! If you are looking to move and take your team to the next level in a unified and synergistic way, let me know how I can develop a special mastermind group for you and your organization!"

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