

THE CENTER FOR SOCIAL LEADERSHIP

PANELS: YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM

Leadership Panel #1

Questions for Panelists and Young Leaders:

- 1) Why is discovering and communicating your **passion** important to becoming a leader? Please share examples from your career of what has happened when you have (and have not) followed your passion.
- 2) Why is **empathy** so important for a leader? What does the term 'emotional intelligence' mean? Why is it important for a leader to have it? Please share examples from your career of when you led with empathy and when you didn't – and what the consequences were.
- 3) Why is it important for a leader to be **honest**? Please share examples of leaders you've worked with who were honest and direct with others – and those who weren't – and what the consequences were for each.

Leadership Panel #2: Balancing School, Work and Life

Questions for Panelists and Young Leaders:

- 1) Define what it means to you for your life to be at balance. How do you balance the competing demands in your life? What is more important to you – success or happiness? Can you have both? How?
- 2) Please share examples from your career when you have not been able to maintain a balance between work and life, and how it affected your capacity to be an effective leader and to feel content with your decisions. Please also share examples of when you've been able to strike this balance. How did it affect your capacity to be a leader?

Leadership Panel #3: Race, Gender and Leadership

Questions for Panelists and Young Leaders:

- 1) Why are you doing work to serve others? What has given you the motivation to work for social change?
- 2) Why is it important for a leader to be honest and **authentic**? How does building trust with others affect your ability to lead? Does being authentic mean always sharing what's on your mind? Please share examples of how leaders you've seen in action have built their organizations by being authentic and honest with others – and what happened when there was a lack of honesty.

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- 3) How does your ethnicity affect you as a leader? Do you feel like others perceive and/or act toward you differently because you are of a certain ethnic group?
- 4) Please share your perception of your own identity. How has this perception affected you as a leader?
- 5) Do you feel a certain responsibility toward those who are disadvantaged in our society and/or the victims of prejudice based on their race and/or gender? How does this sense of responsibility affect you as a leader?
- 6) If you are a woman, how do you feel your gender affects you as a leader? Do you feel like others perceive and/or act toward you differently because you are a woman?

Additional Leadership Panel Questions

Questions for Panelists and Young Leaders:

- 1) What role does **self-esteem** play in becoming a leader? Where do you get your sense of self-value from? Why is it important to be confident? How do you increase your self-confidence if you're not getting the results you want in your career? Please share examples of times in your career when you've had difficulty maintaining your self-confidence.
- 2) As a leader, how do you keep your **focus** on your personal goals and the mission of your organization or company? How do you handle situations where others try to steer you away from what you consider to be your most important tasks? Please share examples of times in your career when you have allowed yourself to react to others and move in the wrong direction, and times when you've maintained your sense of direction amidst very difficult circumstances.
- 3) How does a leader bounce back when something they're doing is not working? Why is an internal capacity for **resilience** important for a leader? Please share examples from your career – or from other leaders you've observed – where continuously striving to 'get something right' and making adjustments along the way was a critical stepping-stone for success.