

Why Leading with Values is the Best Way to Lead

Being a leader is a rewarding yet intimidating job. Leaders often find fulfillment in supporting a larger team or organizing a successful project. But they also can be vulnerable to some not-so-heartwarming feedback, as their responsibilities can have a great impact on their coworkers' satisfaction and company success.

In order to make the most of your leadership position and limit your stress in this position, it is essential to lead with values. So, it's very important to establish your principles, ethics, standards, and morals as a leader and properly embody them in your practice.

What is leading with values and why should I do it?

Leading with values means that you prioritize your personal and professional values in your leadership style and decision-making. It's about aligning your actions with what you believe is important and being authentic in your leadership.

But why is leading with values important? For one, it can help you make better decisions. When you're clear on your values, you have a stronger sense of purpose and direction. This can help you make decisions that align with your values and what's important to you, rather than getting caught up in short-term thinking or reacting to external pressures.

Leading with values can also help you build trust and credibility with your team. When your team sees that you're consistent in your actions and that you stand up for what you believe in, they're more likely to trust and respect you. This can create a positive and productive work environment.

Are you a leader looking to lead with values? Here are some tips to help you find your groove:

Know your values

This means taking the time to reflect on what matters to you, both personally and professionally. Consider what you stand for and what you believe in. This can include values such as honesty, integrity, teamwork, innovation, or anything else that is important to you. Knowing your values will help you stay true to yourself and make sure that your efforts align with your beliefs.

Communicate your values

Once you know your values, share them with your team! Make sure they know what's important to you and what you stand for. This will help create a shared sense of purpose and direction for

your team. When everyone knows what's important to the leader, they can cohesively align their personal decisions with those values.

Model your values

Your actions must align with your values. If you say teamwork is important but never collaborate with your team, or if you say innovation is important but never take risks, people will quickly lose trust in you. Modeling your values means walking the talk, and this will earn the respect and trust of your team.

Encourage others to live their values

A great leader not only leads by example but also encourages and empowers team members to lead by their values. Create an open and supportive environment for your team members to share their own values, contribute to them, and live by them, this will create a culture of authenticity and respect.

Make value-based decisions

When faced with a tough decision, consider what values are at stake and what the long-term consequences of your decision might be. Make sure your decisions align with your values and ultimately, what's important to you as a leader. This will help you make decisions that are consistent with your values, and your team will have more trust in you as a leader.

Conclusion

Leading with values requires some self-reflection and inner work, but it can have a big impact on your leadership, your team, and your company. By being true to yourself and fully authentic, you can create a positive and productive work environment and build confidence and reliability with your team.

Keep in mind that leading with values is not a one-time event, it is a continuous process that requires awareness, effort, and attention. It is important to regularly reflect on your values, and make sure that you are living them in all aspects of your life and leading others to do the same.

Remember, your values are what makes you unique as a leader—don't be afraid to let them guide you!