

Impact of Local Leadership

“What does it mean to be a leader?” was the question asked to my Augsburg College (now Augsburg University) MBA cohort on the first day of the program back in 2010. It was a course in leadership where we were asked to interpret the definition. My big takeaway from that first day was that leadership is not necessarily positional. You don’t have to have a fancy title or job description to be a strong leader. Leadership occurs at every level, including volunteerism. In my own personal story, some of my best examples of leadership development came from volunteering for projects and causes I was passionate about.

As we meet new leaders in our community and also hear from candidates seeking office this fall, I reflect on some of the top leadership qualities that I admire most.

L	Listener	Listening to others and gaining perspective.
E	Empathetic	Perception, support, and understanding.
A	Authentic	Lead with vision, genuine.
D	Development of others	Coach and mentor future leaders.
E	Effective Vision & Strategy	Big picture thinking, and understanding who we are and where we want to go.
R	Resilience	Overcoming obstacles and challenges.
S	Strong communication	Articulating the mission and messaging.
H	Honesty	Accountability, positivity, and integrity.
I	Innovative	Visionary with big ideas.
P	Passion	Engaged motivator of purpose, goals, & objectives.

Our community leaders set priorities and influence decisions that impact our community at large. It’s important to be involved, stay engaged, and ask questions. However, one doesn’t have to hold a political seat or a managerial position to lead. There are ALWAYS opportunities to volunteer, get involved, and lead; and non-profit organizations are an excellent place to start.

I hope you can join us for the “Meet the Candidates” luncheon on Sept 29. And join us on Sept 17 for the best day in Waconia; Nickle Dickle Day! -*Christine*