Lisa McCullum

"Describe what leadership means to you and why the qualities you define leadership by are important attributes of a court reporter." Then explain how you fit the definition.

Leadership to me is a combination of trust, honesty, confidence, inspiration, and a tremendous amount of focus. Relationships are built on trust and a big part of that foundation comes from being honest. The majority of individuals in a leadership position were first led by example by loved ones or mentors throughout their lives. They began to plan and write down their goals to achieve higher standards for themselves and others. While orchestrating a team or organization of like-minded individuals may prove to be a challenge, somehow a great leader can identify qualities in a person that they themselves don't realize they possess. It's a gut feeling that hardly ever fails them. Focusing on the task at hand assists the leader to inspire and motivate the team to reach a common goal which also helps each member become more confident to get the job done.

A court reporter must display all of the above qualities to have a successful career. Each of them represents a different aspect of the career. Being focused and confident in doing your job develops a level of trust between you and the attorneys. I'm sure there is nothing more exhilarating for a court reporter than being requested for a job because the client knows, without a doubt, that you will produce an outstanding transcript every time. That inspires those around you to work harder at preserving the record. Being honest about your workload and having transcripts ready when expected gains the respect of colleagues and clients. As a court reporter, you are the leader of a well-produced record.

In building my own relationships with family, friends, and colleagues, I've learned that being a leader is not always easy, but is required in the home and on your job. I fit the definition because I choose to be not just ordinary, but an extraordinary court reporter.