

Leadership, Education, Service – Through Mission and Focus in New Mexico for Navajo Indian Nation

Abstract/Work-In Progress

The impact of strong, definitive Leadership is critical to meet the needs and demands for all – especially the youth and students throughout our country. The key is how we approach, design and implement Leadership to accommodate the needs provide services for others. The three components of Leadership formulated into the Service/Mission Project were: (1) Inherent Insight of Self; (2) Philosophical Insight and (3) Leadership Insight. These components became the cornerstone for the development of a Service Mission to New Mexico to work with the Navajo Native American Indian, along with the following: Service, Mission, Education, Repairing Homes, Rehab work within the reservations under a purposeful Leadership plan.

Key Factors and outstanding traits play within the leader and how he/she serves within an organization and individuals served. It is important as a leader that these traits be conceptualized for success and as effective leaders serving others. Success within a service or an organization allows yourself and others to move forward and help formulate and implement such leadership strategies and components to best meet the needs of those served. Such traits need to be respected and assured to be significant and aligned to the philosophical vision which complements a group or organization. It is a leader's role to define key components, purpose and meaning that will result in positive outcomes and strong leadership. What is true value, purpose, and meaning within the framework of this Mission will provide an analysis to the work in progress as to defining success and support for the Navajo Native American Indian environment.

Reflective practices will be evaluated and analyzed throughout the entire experience in response to exploration, assistance, guidance, the ability to share thoughts, questions, and struggles, along with possible other variables. This reflection is critical for both leaders and those being served. These experiences and reflections may provide growth and development as well as being in touch with identifiable purpose, transformation, trust, commitment and integration of knowledge for personal development and professional opportunity under the guidance of Leadership traits.

Successful leadership will have a positive effect on the ability to work well with others. Communication skills will be enhanced, while reducing stereotypes, cultural/racial differences, while building a bond of similarities with dignity and respect. Overall, the goal of a strong and effective leader through the three components of leadership is to put action into practice, while participants engage in activities that change both the recipient and provider of service.

There are characteristics and components of traits held by Leaders in order to serve. Leaders need to understand and gain knowledge and wisdom in potential and purpose. These are to continue and grow/develop with emphasis on student success and protection through serving. There needs to be a formulated insight, noting that Leadership can be both an Art and Science, with intent, compassion, dedication and commitment through the reflective process.

**(1) Inherent Insight of Self:** You cannot lead if you do not know where you are or where you are going. You must also have the knowledge and wisdom through insight of self, relative to Leadership. Leaders need to evaluate self within a group/organization, as well as interpersonal dimensions. Therefore the leader needs to respect a personal and reflective process of knowing more of oneself and how the self reacts and interprets all aspects of life. This in turn promotes and aligns the leader's philosophy. This self understanding leads to the journey that never ends, but complements a purpose in life and for others. Perception and implementation through action for others by knowing and have wisdom of self for others is essential.

**(2) Philosophical Insight:** From the self, comes a philosophical bent, which drives us throughout our lives and for others, and defines style and potential. Beliefs and experiences along with influences will direct our personal and professional philosophies. Leaders then impart and communicate a philosophy that provides opportunity to share, communicate and help/enlighten others. The ability to focus and continue to grow may assist in the facilitation to move forward and hence, lead others. Who are you? What is your philosophy? What do you believe in? What is your Vision? Who we are, where we go, and who we become as a person and leader can assist others. The philosophical search deepens our conviction and commitment to others. In order to do so, leaders need to develop a philosophical analysis, focusing on Ontology, Axiology, and Epistemology. This is then shared with those we serve.

The intent is to focus on a better understanding of the self and philosophy, create a metacognitive approach and relationships to various situations and organizations. There is a need to discuss, interpret, share, and understand each other and each other's relationships to group dynamics, lifestyles, ideals, and organizational thought and reflection in order to lead. There is a need to develop and nurture bonds and networks amongst each other through the sharing process of each other's philosophies and what each person would like to be and pursue future endeavors. Another intent is to provide insight into yourself, leading to an awareness and deeper understanding of the concept of "why" you may be where you are, or lead to a deeper understanding of your place within your profession or life.

**(3) Leadership Insight:** Key factors and outstanding traits play within a leader and how he/she serves within an organization. It is important that these traits be conceptualized for success and as effective leaders, serving others. This section delineates those traits and how they can move an organization forward and for those the leader serves. Such traits need to be respected and must be aligned to the philosophical vision which complements a group/organization. What are key components that make a difference in leadership? How do we design the necessary characteristics that will provide positive outcomes and strong leadership? The key is to focus on what is of value and meaningful to promote leadership within a group/organization for success and support.

The intent of the Navajo Mission is to provide an educational experience supplementing much needed assistance and service. Including building and repairs in a much needed environment of poverty and desolation throughout the Navajo Nation that is sorely underfunded and supported by any and all, including governmental agencies. Most of these homes being primitive, without water, electric, heat,

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safety, washroom facilities, proper structures or any dignity to families and children. Our goal is to provide comfortable and safe living conditions, while respecting their traditions and heritage. It is also critical that the leaders come away with knowledge and wisdom from those they serve. We intend to communicate improve educational and living conditions, while searching for the truth to think critically, communicate effectively and serve wisely and compassionately within this leadership framework, and reinforce and compliment Navajo dignity and common good. This in return may support and incorporate our mission, philosophy and statement of leadership.

This project is to develop a protocol and opportunity for long range planning and longitudinal adjustments in order to better serve this community and people.

Respectfully Submitted,

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