

TAKING THE LEAD

By: ANDREW DATILLO, CPA

For many, taking a leadership role can be challenging. Some people are born to lead while others must put time and effort into building the skillset necessary to effectively lead a team. When I look back on my education and the early part of my career, certain mentors stick out as natural born leaders. These mentors did three common things:

Build Trust

Trust is the key ingredient in successfully managing others. Cultivating a “team first” atmosphere starts with trusting the person that leads the team. An easy way to build this trust is by instilling open communication around expectations and goals of any project. Team members are more willing to buy in to the task when they know the purpose and deadlines expected. Also, it is important to be transparent and inform team members of any changes as they arise throughout the project. Individuals are more willing to put in the extra time at the end of the project if you are honest with them and have gained their trust.

Listen and Encourage Input

Successful leaders know when it is time to take a step back and listen to their team. When planning for a project, the manager on the job has a vision of how that job is going to be completed. After that vision is communicated to the team, it is important to listen to see if they have any ideas that can make the job more efficient. Many great ideas come from allowing the team to brainstorm during the planning stages of a project.

Challenge the Team

Individuals want to be challenged. When assigning tasks for a project, ask each individual what part they would be most interested in working on. You will be surprised how many people respond by asking for a task they have never done before. Giving them the opportunity to take on new roles keeps them engaged and at the same time gives them the chance to expand their skill set.

The next time you have an opportunity to take the lead on a team, be confident, keep these three traits in mind and you will be on the path to success!



If you have questions about this or any other business or tax issue, please contact your Account Manager or [Andrew Datillo, CPA](mailto:adatilto@connerash.com), at (314) 205-2510 or via email at adatilto@connerash.com.