

The future is now for building tomorrow's leaders

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Where will the next BIG idea come from? Who will it come from? In these challenging economic times, it is sometimes hard to imagine the bright light at the end of the tunnel. The challenges our businesses are facing are a weighty responsibility for experienced leaders. For novice leaders, these challenges can be overwhelming. But good steel is honed at the highest temperatures. Great leadership will be forged in spite of these tough times and great individual leaders will emerge as conquerors of the challenges we are facing, stronger, tested and ready for whatever the world throws in their path.

Great leaders will be molded not by chance, but by choice. These individuals will find a way to learn and grow in key competencies by taking chances in solving problems and, through innovation, putting themselves in the path of opportunities that stretch their capabilities. We all can and should play a part in this process, this metamorphosis for you, our leaders of the future.

Development of your leadership skills has never been more important, and opportunities for development have never been more apparent. Consider what can be learned by the circumstances in our current environment that will inform and equip you as a future leader. What better time to focus on what you can learn to become great as we are redefining what our future will be?

- What can you do to build your leadership skills? Keep it simple, keep it routine and keep it personal. Find a mentor or coach who can guide you with support, encouragement and professional expertise.
- Find your own leadership voice. You need to be able to articulate a vision for others to follow. Find opportunities to verbalize what you can make happen, how you will do it and how you will include others.
- Identify the unique talents and values you bring to your role. Connect the dots between your strengths and your contributions to the organization.
- Challenge the status quo. Wonder why and, more importantly, why not. The new great idea might just come from you.
- Test yourself in real-life situations fearlessly. You may not be successful, but you will be learning and ready when the next opportunity presents itself.
- Follow the example of great leaders. Model their successful behaviors.

Great leaders are ordinary people who get extraordinary things done. To learn more, contact Donna at Credo Management Consulting (www.credomc.com or 615-579-0607).