

PROPOSAL FOR 2001 ANNUAL MEETING
THE ASSOCIATION OF LEADERSHIP EDUCATORS
Conference Theme: *A Leadership Odyssey!*
July 19-21, 2001
Crowne Plaza Northstar Hotel, Minneapolis, Minnesota

TITLE

"LEADERSHIP AND SELF-KNOWLEDGE"

AUTHOR AND AFFILIATION

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FORMAT PREFERENCE

Paper--alone or on panel is fine.

ABSTRACT

TITLE OF PROPOSED SESSION

Leadership and Self-Knowledge

Self-knowledge is critically important for leaders (and for followers). That leaders need self knowledge is viewed as a given by both scholars and practitioners. In fact, a standard piece of advice given to aspiring leaders by both scholars and practitioners of leadership is "know yourself."

Knowing oneself is a life-long process that is never finished. Leaders need to know a number of things about themselves, including the following:

- o their assumptions
- o their passions
- o their limitations
- o their skills
- o their values (what they stand for)
- o their vision of how things ought to be
- o their shadow side
- o what they don't know

In educating students for leadership, instructors need to be able to raise students' self-knowledge. This presentation has the following goals:

1. Raise awareness of the importance of self-knowledge, including knowledge of one's shadow side.
2. Describe the Johari Window as a helpful tool in helping students recognize they need to work on self-knowledge. The Johari Window has four quadrants composed of known to self, not known to self, known to others, and not known to others.
3. Describe and discuss seven ways to obtain self-knowledge. This will include discussion of the qualities needed to do so (e.g., humility).
4. Discuss the relevance of self-knowledge for issues of diversity (in the broadest sense of the term).

RELEVANCE FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Participants will obtain theoretical and practical strategies for working with students on self-knowledge. Relevance to the conference theme of diversity includes the importance of identifying one's perspectives and values regarding diversity (unfortunately, many students believe they have no biases regarding issues of race and sex!!!!) as well as the experience of diverse views and cultures as a means to self-knowledge for oneself.