

FWIC WI Canada Module 9 Leadership: Incentive and Identity

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The topic “leadership Incentive and identity” is simply as it says. We will explore the identity and qualities of effective leaders, and then discuss how we might encourage and incentivize each other to take positions of leadership.

You are encouraged to watch Module 9 on YouTube at:

<https://youtu.be/nM9uuTqIRO8>.

Some Key Points from the Module:

Brene Brown's definition of a leader:

A leader is anyone who takes responsibility for finding the potential in people and processes and has the courage to develop that potential.

A leader versus an officer - perhaps the difference between working 'beside' someone rather than 'under' them. Collaboration among equals is highly effective as a model of leadership.

Quote from Neil Gaiman:

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.

Willingness to make mistakes - be vulnerable.

Leaders exhibit courageous leadership when they're willing to be vulnerable—they're “all in”—even though it means they may fail or get hurt. Contrary to popular opinion, vulnerable leadership isn't soft or weak. Brown says vulnerability sounds like truth and feels like courage. Truth and courage aren't always comfortable, but they're never weakness.

Ask yourself "What's the worst that can happen"?

The INCENTIVE TO LEAD is the core of like-minded support. LISTEN to each other and express yourself. Rather than asking what others will think, ask what is best for the organization. Have each other's back.

Quote from Brene Brown:

No organization can thrive in the absence of creativity, innovation, and learning and the greatest threat to all three of these is disengagement.

On leaders and vulnerability by Seth Godin:

Leadership is scarce because few people are willing to go through the discomfort required to lead. This scarcity makes leadership valuable ... it's uncomfortable to stand up in front of strangers. It's uncomfortable to propose an idea that might fail. It's uncomfortable to challenge the status quo. It's uncomfortable to resist the urge to settle. When you identify the discomfort, you've found the place where a leader is needed. If you're not uncomfortable in your work as a leader, it's almost certain you're not reaching your potential as a leader.

My closing remark - we (WI) are best if we are NOT expecting certain performance from prospective members, listing what qualities we are needing in members. Rather talk about what WI offers to members. Not what we need from you but rather what we offer you!!!!

Women today are actively searching for connection. THAT is what we need to be offering first and foremost.

Link for Ted Talk by Brene Brown

https://www.ted.com/talks/brene_brown_the_power_of_vulnerability

Resource:

Brene Brown's book *Daring Greatly*, particularly chapters 5 and 6, form the basis for this session.