



## WHAT MATTERS - A PKAL TOOL

# CHARACTERISTICS OF THE IDEAL LEADER

### Instructions:

The *Characteristics of the Ideal Leader Inventory*, designed by PKAL, will provide insight about your strengths and your potential as a leader. This inventory reflects ideas and from a wide range of reflective leadership theorists and practitioners. See *Leadership— A PKAL Portfolio, 2004: Investing in the Future: Building Institutional Leadership for Natural Science Communities* (<http://www.pkal.org/documents/LeadershipHandbook.cfm>)

After completing the *Inventory*, you should identify a handful of key leaderships traits that are both critical and lacking at this time. With these growth areas identified, we suggest keeping a journal of efforts to incorporate the targeted traits into your professional life. You may want identify someone you know who truly exhibits the chosen leadership characteristics and interview them. Reassess your progress periodically.

<b>With respect to the QUALITIES OF INDIVIDUAL LEADERS, leaders:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
are aware of their particular talents & strengths	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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require that their actions be consistent with their most deeply felt values & beliefs	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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have the capacity to “put themselves in another person’s place”	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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have the knowledge, skill, & expertise required to complete the transformation.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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<b>With respect to the IMPORTANCE OF GIFTED INDIVIDUALS, leaders:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
overcome inertia by identifying and supporting gifted individuals	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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provide enough flexibility to make changes	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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capture the lessons learned from successful models emerging elsewhere	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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use limited resources creatively to affect change (a carrot rather than a stick).	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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<b>With respect to TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE, leaders:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
are strong role models	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
create vision	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
listen, but also initiate	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
understand organizational culture.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		

<b>With respect to LEADERSHIP LESSONS LEARNED, change agents:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
do not over-prepare	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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do not burn any bridges	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
learn how to delegate, empower, relinquish control	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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leave all options open and choose their battles.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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<b>With respect to the INDIVIDUAL AS CHANGE AGENT, a change agent:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
belongs to an organization capable of individual and collective inquiry	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
is a change agent with a moral purpose	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
intersects with like-minded colleagues to bring about continuous improvements	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
understands the system.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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<b>With respect to SUCCESSFUL STEM EDUCATIONAL INNOVATORS, an education innovator:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
is able to take risks, inspired by a sense of mission	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
is savvy and persistent about obtaining resources, can maneuver around constraints	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
is a proactive and pragmatic problem-solver	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
is a member of cross-institutional networks.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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<b>With respect to INFORMED PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT, this requires:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
providing a mechanism allowing integration of various perspectives in a meaningful way	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
supporting the process of “reflection in action”	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
encouraging users to become owners of problems	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
informing participants about the cost, benefit, and other factors affecting change.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		

<b>With respect to LEADERSHIP IN UNDERGRADUATE STEM, leaders:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
leverage and capitalize on the work of innovators	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
translate an idea into action	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
focus on the learner and have clear insights about how people learn	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
learn from failures, understanding the limitations of their work.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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<b>With respect to A WILLINGNESS TO TRUST, leaders are ready to:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
admit mistakes	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
listen attentively to what others have to say	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
show they are willing to change their mind	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
trust others, trust is contagious.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		

<b>With respect to COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATION, leaders:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
are inclusive	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
don't hesitate to ask for advice	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
make sure a communication plan is complete	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
communicate with more rather than fewer.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		

<b>With respect to being OPEN TO SURPRISE, leaders:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
are receptive to what comes over the transom	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
are wired to perceive the unexpected	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
can scan the environment and identify emerging trends	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
work consciously to develop diversity of thought.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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<b>With respect to SUCCESSFUL INNOVATORS, innovators:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
are resourceful and resilient	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
show a commitment to practical action	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
have a high tolerance for complexity and ambiguity	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
are comfortable working on the margins of established knowledge.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		

<b>With respect to “NO ROOM FOR MAVERICKS?,” mavericks:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
are willing to bring fresh blood into the equation	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
recognize those earning the right to be heard	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
give other mavericks opportunity and time to blossom	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
do not control all important decisions at the top.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		

<b>With respect to UNDERSTANDING THE OUTSTANDING, to achieve well beyond expectations:</b>	How do I rate myself on these characteristics of the ideal leader?					
exceptional people and practices should be leveraged	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
understand that change can be brought about from within	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
identify ways to improve performance and working conditions	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5		
identify and build from positive outliers. ■	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	1	2	3	4	5
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