

Leadership

Your graduation is a time to reflect on your outstanding growth and congratulate yourself for your many accomplishments. It is also a time to think about the next phase of your life and to re-dedicate yourself to being the best you can be.

You are a natural leader. You inspire others with your boundless energy, strong determination, compelling charm, wonderful wit, and warm smile. People naturally gravitate to you. Many seek your leadership. More will do so in the future.

Leadership is strongest when it is firmly grounded in principles and goals. Strong principles and goals give leadership purpose. Everyone benefits when leaders have strong principles and goals.

Take the time to establish a formal set of principles and goals - your own "personal code of ethics". Your code of ethics should define what you expect of yourself. It should be a plan for the person you want to become - and the influence you offer for those following your lead.

Then as you lead others, lead in ways that are consistent with your code of ethics. Think through the consequences of your leadership on others. Make sure each element of your leadership is consistent with your code of ethics. A strong code of ethics will strengthen your ability to lead, and increasing numbers will naturally seek your leadership.

Life is never all leadership for anyone. Even the strongest leader follows others from time-to-time. When you follow others, make sure that they are leading you on paths that are consistent with your code of ethics. Don't allow yourself to be "swept up" by the crowd. Be sure of yourself and your principles. Be strong in resisting others' leadership that may be inconsistent with your values.

As you go through life, when you see the opportunity, encourage others to adopt their own personal code of ethics. Lead others to define their own principles and goals, and help them strengthen their own personal values.

Never underestimate what you can accomplish. Lead with courage and conviction. Be confident that you have the power to change the world.