

Full Extension: The Presence of a Leader

THE FORTHCOMING BOOK BY DICK HELLER

Full extension is a term from the worlds of dance and sport. An athlete is at “full extension” when using every muscle, every fiber, every available resource to be as present in space as humanly possible. A leader must do the same thing. As successful leaders we utilize every available aspect of our selves: our body, our voice, our awareness of the world. Leaders must show others, through what they do and what they say, that they emphasize:

VISION

A keen eye and a clear view of the desired shared future
Sharing our “lens,” our view of the world, with others

OPTIMIZATION

Full effective use of all available talent and assets
Alignment of organizational systems and goals

INCLUSION

Gaining the commitment of others
Valuing the potential of everyone

COURAGE

Stepping into the unknown requires faith and hope
Leaders dare to accomplish the extraordinary

ENERGY

Positive attitude requires contagious optimism
Persistence and purpose trump stress and fatigue

These five elements spell “VOICE.” A leader’s influence derives from their physical and vocal presence. True leadership makes it possible for organizations to share lofty aspirations with absolute clarity, giving everyone the strength and power to realize great accomplishments. In this cynical age, leaders must be credible beyond reproach. They must earn the solid respect of their constituents in order to invite their teams to excel. Due out next spring, “Full Extension: The Presence of a Leader” will outline the concepts, behaviors, and ideas that contribute to great leadership for the Twenty-first Century.