

10 Ultimate Traits of an Innovation Leader

Almost every organization out there would love to have a leader who knows how to make a company more innovative, but they can be hard to come by. However, you may already have managers in your organization with the potential to do this.

They simply need some guidance as to how to become the kind of leader who inspires their teams to take on innovation and build a creative culture.



01

Has a strong strategic vision, and shares it

- Can vividly describe their vision of the future, and how they're going to achieve it
- Keep employees not just up to speed, but engaged and informed, as a best practice



02

Knows their customers

- What is semi-important to the customer is crucial to you
- Network with clients, and ask questions about their needs and wants
- Find out exactly what you or your business can do to improve the customer experience



03

Trust their employees

- Initiate warm, collaborative relationships with the innovators who work for them
- Be highly accessible and ensure colleagues know you would cover their backs and not throw them under the bus if something went wrong



04

Is loyal to their purpose

- Stay loyal to doing what's right for the organization and customer
- Working to please the boss or some other higher-level executive should always take a back seat to doing the right thing for the project or the company



05

Celebrates upward communication

- Create a company culture that encourages suggestions from all levels - the front line or on the C-Suite
- Stay receptive and open-minded to ideas from anyone



06

Is persuasive

- Don't push or force ideas onto teams
- Instead, present ideas with enthusiasm and conviction, and people will follow



07

Excels at setting stretch goals

- These goals require people to go far beyond just working harder
- Work out new ways of achieving success
- Don't stop pushing the boundary of what your organisation can do



08

Is faster and decisive

- Speed can 'scrape the barnacles off the hull of the boat'
- Experiments and quick prototypes can help you push on to success, or write off an unsuccessful idea with a minimum amount of wastage



09

Is candid and honest

- Provide honest, and at times even sometimes forthright, feedback
- At times being overly open can be challenging for some, an innovative leader needs to be clear and concise
- On average, people will always appreciate honesty



10

Inspires and motivates through action

- Be the example of how you want your employees/colleagues to act
- Have a passion for the projects you work on, and the feeling will catch on to those around you

So there you have it. It may not seem game-changing but developing these 10 traits will get you well on your way to inspiring others to be just as innovative as you.

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