

Program Syllabus

October 17-22, 2021

Program Start

Registration at 1440 Multiversity will take place between **12:00-2:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 17**. Classes will start at 3:00 p.m. sharp. All participants are asked to be in the assigned classroom prior to that time (please arrange your transportation to be sure to arrive in time, accounting for possible travel delays).

Program Purpose

True North Leadership at 1440 Multiversity (TNL) is a professional development program based on the principles and philosophies of authentic leadership. Our goal is that participants will develop as leaders of organizations and embark on paths of personal leadership development that include active self-care and contemplative practices. TNL requires personal curiosity and reflection from participants, and personal openness and sharing in the class discussions, Leadership Circles (LCs), and one-on-one sessions with the instructors. Leadership development concepts used in this program will be immediately useful for participants and applicable for the rest of their lives.

Intellectual Premise and Program Concepts

The premise of TNL is that leaders who know themselves well and consciously develop their leadership abilities throughout their lifetimes will be more effective, successful leaders and lead more satisfying and fulfilling lives. TNL will provide participants with many ideas, techniques, and tools to assist in their leadership development journeys, exploring concepts such as lifelong leadership development; leadership crucibles; discovering your authentic self; knowing your principles, values, and ethical boundaries; building support teams; leadership style and power; integrated leadership; and purpose-driven leadership.

Leadership Circles (LCs)

Each participant will be assigned to a Leadership Circle (LC) with five other people. Your LC will meet for 90–120 minutes to complete the assignment for the session. The LCs enable participants to discuss personal materials in a more intimate group setting and to encourage a higher level of openness and reflection than may not be possible in the larger group setting. LCs will be facilitated by a member of the group, taking turns so that each participant will have the opportunity to facilitate at least one LC session during the program. The first LC will have a pre-assigned facilitator.

Pre-Work Reading and Assignments

1. Read *Discover Your True North* in its entirety before the program begins, as we refer to its concepts and stories throughout the program.
2. Complete the exercises in *The Discover Your True North Fieldbook*.
3. Complete the Other Assignments for each session listed below.

Other Assignments

1. Please write a one-page memo to yourself about the things you hope to gain from this week in terms of your leadership and the ways in which you will develop it. Please email this memo to bill@bpgeorge.com no later than Saturday, October 16, 2021.
2. At the end of each day – Monday through Friday – please write a few paragraphs about what you learned about yourself and your leadership, and email to bill@bpgeorge.com (Note: All information will be treated confidentially and none of it will be shared orally or in writing with anyone other than Professor George. You are, of course, at liberty to share this information with members of your Leadership Circle, other faculty members, or anyone else you choose).

Sunday, October 17

3:00-3:30 p.m.

Session I: Welcome and Orientation

Scott Kriens & Bill George

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Introduction and Life Story

Scott Kriens

Reading

- o *Discover Your True North*: Introduction and Chapter 1

Fieldbook Assignment

- o Read in *The Discover Your True North Fieldbook*: Preface, Introduction and Chapter 1 and Appendix A & B. Complete exercises in Chapter 1.

Other Assignments

- o *Activity*: Think about your autobiography and write out the chapter titles of your life, then chart them on your Lifeline Chart (see below). Please bring your completed chart to class on Sunday.
- o *Watch*: [These Lessons Took Howard Schultz from Starbucks CEO to the Presidential Race](#)

Discussion Questions

1. How can you link Schultz' life experiences to the kind of company he built at Starbucks?
2. How did Schultz balance dual goals of sustaining Starbucks' growth while staying true to its authentic roots as a unique local coffeehouse?
3. What do you think of Schultz's response to the racial profiling incident that took place in Philadelphia?
4. How would you "connect the dots" between your early life and the challenges you face as a leader in your professional life?
5. What are your dreams and your fears in taking on greater leadership roles?

6:00-9:30 p.m.

Leadership Circle I

At the first LC meeting, begin by reviewing Appendix B pg 225, "Form a Leadership Discussion Group" in the *Discover Your True North Fieldbook*. Review the written guidelines then each member of your group should sign the contract which establishes norms for your group. Then each member of the LC should share his or her life story with the members of the LC and continue over dinner. Use the Lifeline Chart to help tell your story.

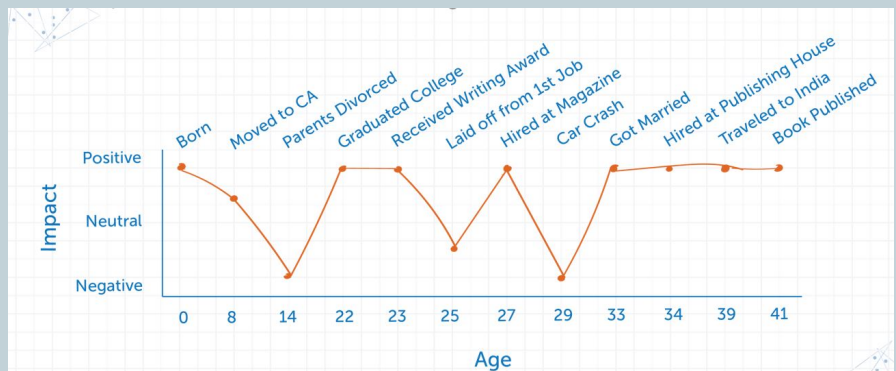
Activity: Lifeline Chart

Think about your autobiography and write out the chapter titles of your life, then chart them on your Lifeline Chart. Please bring your completed chart to class on Sunday. You will use this to help tell your Life Story to your Leadership Circle.

Directions:

X Axis: On graph paper or plain paper chart your chapter headlines vertically across the top of the page, then the age you were at that time directly below at the bottom.

Y Axis: Put a dot between the headline and your age indicating the neutral, positive, or negative impact the headline had on you and your life. Draw a line connecting the dots. Observe the ups and downs of your headlines, and reflect on their flow over the course of your life.



Monday, October 18

8:30-10:00 a.m. *Session II: Crucibles*

Bill George

This class will focus on the most difficult times of your life – your crucible(s) – how you navigated them, what you learned from them, and how you are able to use these experiences as opportunities for learning and growth. We will examine the personal challenges faced by Ping Fu (founder of Geomagic, one of the first 3D printing companies), Merck’s Ken Frazier, and Nelson Mandela as vehicles to understand how other leaders navigated their challenges.

Reading

- *Discover Your True North*, Chapters 2 & 3 and pages 182-184 (Mandela) and 199-203 (Frazier)

Fieldbook Assignment

- Complete exercises in *The Discover Your True North Fieldbook*, Chapters 2 & 3

Other Assignments

- Watch: [First 28 minutes of video of Ping Fu at Google](#)
- Additional Reading:
 - [A Courageous Leader Triggers a Moral Revolt of CEOs](#)
 - [Merck CEO Ken Frazier on Death Row Cases & the Corporate Soul](#)

Discussion Questions

1. How was Ping Fu able to overcome the adversity of her early years and become so successful?
2. How did Ping use her crucible experience to shape her career and her leadership philosophy?
3. Was Ken Frazier correct to resign from President Trump’s American Manufacturing Council?
4. How did Frazier’s crucibles early in his life shape his career and his decisions?
5. What enabled Nelson Mandela to forgive his captors after 27 years as a political prisoner?
6. In thinking about your crucible experience, how can you reframe it in positive terms as an opportunity for learning and growth?

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. *Leadership Circle II*

Describe your crucible to your group and what you learned from it. Describe how you can reframe your crucible as an opportunity for personal growth. Ask your group members to share their experiences. In listening to the members of your LC describe their crucibles, see what you can learn from their experiences, as well. In this session, it is extremely important to follow all the guidelines in the contract you signed the first day, especially those related to openness, trust, confidentiality and non-judgmental feedback.

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Monday, October 18 (*continued*)

1:30-3:00 p.m.

Session III: Introspection

Michelle Maldonado

Reading

- *Discover Your True North*, Chapter 4

Fieldbook Assignment

- Complete the exercises in *The Discover Your True North Fieldbook*, Chapter 4

Other Assignments

- *Practice: Daily Commute Micro-Mindfulness and write about your experience.* On your way to work, whether you walk, cycle, drive or take public transportation, travel without engaging in your cell phone or other devices. Do not listen to music, the news or other productions. Instead, simply walk, drive or ride quietly and notice what is around you. What do you see? What do you hear? How do you feel? Try not to judge what you notice, but to meet it with kindness and curiosity.
- *Read:* [Unconscious Bias: Turning Discovery & Awareness into Action and Impact](#)
- *Listen:* [Is it Safe to Speak Up at Work? \(Work Life with Adam Grant Podcast\)](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Think of a time when you lacked self-awareness. Looking back on your experience, what caused you to do so? What did you learn from the experience?
2. What regular practices do you have to improve your self-awareness?
3. How do you contribute to creating psychological safety at work, and in your life?

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Leadership Circle III

Discuss your self-awareness, your hidden areas, and your perceived blind spots with members of your group, and to ask them for feedback. Describe a situation in which you displayed a lack of self-awareness, and what you learned from this experience. As a group, discuss ways to improve your self-awareness.

Tuesday, October 19

8:30-10:00 a.m. *Session IV: Values*

Gen. Dana Born

Reading

- *Discover Your True North*, Chapter 5

Fieldbook Assignment

- Complete the exercises in *The Discover Your True North Fieldbook*, Chapter 5

Other Assignments

- *Read*: [Reinventing the Command: General Janet Wolfenbarger's Values-Based Leadership Drives Change at the United States Air Force](#)
- *Watch*: [U.S. Air Force Retired General Janet Wolfenbarger](#)

Discussion Questions

1. What were the General's values and principles? How were they shaped? How did they guide her life and leadership of the AFMC?
2. As you evaluate the General's AFMC reorganization, consider how your own decisions may have differed, based upon an analysis of your own values and principles.

Personal Discussion Questions

1. What are my core values?
2. Can I be successful professionally AND be true to my values/principles?
3. What role do "boundaries" play in my ability to live my values?
4. What's the connection between VALUES and how we lead?

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. *Leadership Circle IV*

Discuss your values, leadership principles, and ethical boundaries, and your prioritization of each of them. Describe the situation in which your values were tested and share your feelings openly. Solicit feedback from your group on how you handled it and explore what you might have done differently.

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Tuesday, October 19 (*continued*)

1:00-2:30 p.m.

Session V: Sweet Spot

Gen. Dana Born

Reading

- *Discover Your True North*, Chapter 6

Fieldbook Assignment

- *The Discover Your True North Fieldbook*, Chapter 6

Other Assignments

- Listen: [NPR JetBlue Airways: David Neeleman](#)

Discussion Questions

1. What is motivating David Neeleman?
2. How did his childhood impact his leadership?
3. Who influenced him most? Who influences you?
4. What are the unique capabilities that have made him so successful?
5. What is your assessment of what happened inside JetBlue in the wake of the Valentine's Day disaster?

Personal Discussion Questions

1. What am I really good at? (Strengths)
2. Which of my skills/attributes do others value most? (Extrinsic)
3. What do I love to do? (Intrinsic/Passions)

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Leadership Circle V

Discuss your intrinsic and extrinsic motivations, how they are often in conflict, and how you resolve these conflicts. Mesh your motivations and capabilities to find you "sweet spot". What valuable insights about your career and life choices come up for you?

Wednesday, October 20

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Session VI: Purpose

Michelle Maldonado

Reading

- *Discover Your True North*, Chapter 10

Fieldbook Assignment

- *The Discover Your True North Fieldbook*, Chapter 10

Other Assignments

- Read: [From Purpose to Impact](#)

Discussion Questions

1. What are you passionate about and how does that influence your thinking about the purpose of your leadership?
2. What kind of legacy would you like to leave behind at the end of your days?

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Leadership Circle VI

Discuss your leadership purpose with the members of your circle. Describe how aligned you are with your purpose in your current role, and what you can do to create greater alignment.

12:00-5:00 p.m.

Purpose Development Afternoon

Teaching Fellows & Faculty

An afternoon of purpose work and optional faculty discussions throughout campus.

Thursday, October 21

8:30-10:00 a.m. *Session VII: Integrated Life*

Bill George

This class will focus on the challenges of becoming an integrated leader by bringing together all aspects of your life – personal, work, family, friends, and community – into an integrated whole. We will discuss the challenging experience of doing so, especially the effective use of time, the sacrifices and tradeoffs leaders must make, and the intensity and discomfort sometimes involved in working out congruence among different domains of life. We will discuss who you look to for support and guidance during challenging times, and discuss the real-world challenges you face in balancing your personal lives with your professional careers

Reading

- o *Discover Your True North*, Chapters 7 & 8

Fieldbook Assignment

- o Complete the exercises in *The Discover Your True North Fieldbook*, Chapters 7 & 8

Other Assignments

- o *Read*: [We “Leaned In” to Our Marriage – Equally](#)
- o *Write*: Examine each area of your life (personal life, family, friendships, and community), and describe what is most important to you in each. Write a short essay on how each of these areas contributes to or detracts from your leadership. Describe a situation in which your needs came into conflict and how you resolved this conflict. What would you do differently in the future? Describe how you can deal with the conflicts and sacrifices of leadership and bring together all aspects of your life to be an integrated leader.

Discussion Questions

1. Optimal vs. Sufficient?
2. Priorities & Trade-offs? => Choices!
3. Permission to choose? Who gets to decide?

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. *Leadership Circle VII*

Discuss your exercises in building your support team and in becoming an integrated leader with others in your LC and solicit their feedback. Describe who you look to on your support team during challenging times. Then describe circumstances in which you have made trade-offs and sacrifices between your career and your personal life, and how you have resolved them. Be attentive to future trade-offs and sacrifices you will inevitably be faced with making.

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Thursday, October 21 (*continued*)

1:00-2:30 p.m.

Session VIII: Empowerment

Scott Kriens

Reading

- *Discover Your True North*, Chapters 11

Fieldbook Assignment

- Complete the exercises in *The Discover Your True North Fieldbook*, Chapter 11

Other Assignments

- Read: [Manage Your Energy, Not Your Time](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Consider the ways you have found most effective in leading and empowering others?
2. What things do you do that are unempowering or detract from your leadership of others?
3. What feedback have you received from your subordinates and peers about your style of empowering others?
4. Are you an “energizing” leader, who invigorates people, or an “enervating” leader, who drains energy and vitality from others?

3:00-4:30 p.m.

Leadership Circle VIII

Discuss how you empower others to lead, and how you could use compassion to deepen relationships at work. Refer to the Rainbow Zones handout and discuss what zone your organization is in and why. How could your leadership help it to move to a healthier zone and/or enhance its generative state if it’s in the Blue Zone?

Friday, October 22

Leadership Circle

Fieldbook Assignment

- Complete the exercises in *The Discover Your True North Fieldbook*, Chapter 13
- As you prepare your PLDP, consider the kind of leader you would like to become in the future, and map out a plan to get there (tomorrow, three months, six months, one year and five years from now), and the intentional learning and experiences needed to meet your goals. Include self-care and how you will incorporate empowering others in your plan.

8:30-10:15 a.m. *Leadership Circle IX*

This is your final Leadership Circle, and perhaps the most important. Discuss your PLDP with the members of your LC, describing how you will continue to develop yourself as a leader. Then listen to other members of your LC as they describe their plans. After each person, give them honest feedback about how you see them as leaders.

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. *Session IX: Leading Toward a Better World; Close*

Bill George & Scott Kriens

In this final class we will talk about how each of us can contribute – in small ways and large – to making this world a better place for everyone. Please bring to class your ideas about your hopes and dreams in this regard.

Reading

- *Discover Your True North*, Afterword and Chapter 12

12:00 p.m. *Adjournment and Lunch*