

Leadership
is action, not
position.

*Donald
McGannon*

LEADERSHIP

Leadership is a term that takes on many different meanings according to the perspective of the leader. Some view it as power and control, some as an opportunity for teamwork. However, society recognizes leadership as an important skill, a trait we seek in many different people and in many different roles.

A major purpose of college has been to provide society with leaders. The mission statement of GSU acknowledges that "GSU will be characterized by a supportive campus climate, necessary services, and leadership and development opportunities, all to educate the whole person and meet the needs of students, faculty and staff."

But what is leadership? According to a recent article, leadership can be defined by the following beliefs:

- Leadership is demonstrated by both those individual designated leaders and those who actively participate in an organization.
- Leaders and active participants must be capable of making thoughtful, critical and informed decisions.
- Leaders must maintain, protect and extend individual freedoms that form the basis of participation in society.
- Responsible leaders develop commitment in the membership to both the organization and its broader role in society.
- Leaders must possess both a realistic contemporary perspective and a hopeful vision for individuals and society for the future.
- Leaders must be able to identify their own and others' strengths and weaknesses, and use this knowledge to the benefit of the organization and society.
- Leaders must work within a new paradigm that includes the concept of global community, a commitment to values-based decisions, an understanding of community service, and a concern for the common good.

Office of
Student Life
and
Leadership

330 Student
Center
404.413.1580
[www2.gsu.edu/
leadership](http://www2.gsu.edu/leadership)