

Leading Confidently into the Unknown

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WHAT I KNOW FOR SURE

~OPRAH WINFREY



What You Should Know For Sure About Leading Into the Unknown

Taking the Lead requires:

- Purpose
- Values
- Confidence
- Pushing through your Comfort Zone
- Risk-taking and overcoming self-doubt
- Resiliency to move beyond failures and achieve success
- Shared Perspectives to build your confidence and resiliency



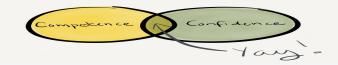
Building the Confidence to Lead into the Unknown

- Requires a PURPOSE that moves you beyond self-doubt
- When you're on a MISSION, you can move mountains
- Pursuing a PASSION
- Desire to make a positive IMPACT
- Realizing what you have to offer and your value starts with setting goals for who you want to be and what you want to accomplish



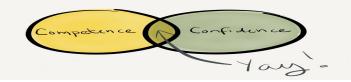
Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained.

~Marie Curie, Nobel Laureate



Challenge Yourself and Confront Your Fears

- Building self-confidence starts by pushing out of your comfort zone
- Pushing your comfort zone challenges you to stretch for higher aspirations and success
- o Fear is the great enemy of self-confidence and keeps us holding on to our comfort zone
- It takes courage to confront our fears.



You gain

STRENGTH, COUARGE and

CONFIDENCE

by every

EXPERIENCE

in which you really

STOP

to look

FEAR

IN THE FACE.

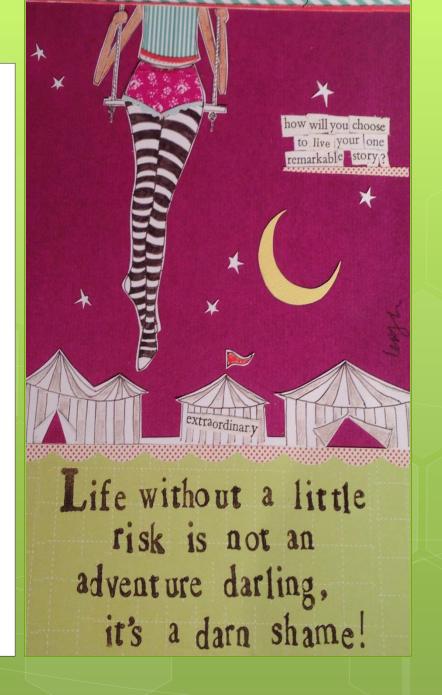
~Eleanor Roosevelt



Risk Taking and Overcoming Self-Doubt

- Be willing to tolerate discomfort
- People who take risks are not fearless, they just don't let fear take control
- Think of risk-taking as a necessary part of your professional training
- Focus on what you have to gain from taking a risk
- Confront the need to be perfectly competent or practically perfect before taking risks
- Take realistic, strategic, calculated risks
- o Lean In instead of opting out

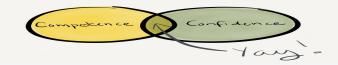
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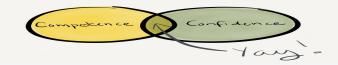
Failure is a Building Block Toward Success

- Depersonalize your mistakes and absorb criticism without being discouraged
- Mistakes are a fact of life-just because you failed at one thing doesn't make YOU a failure
- Accept failure as part of the life and career game plan--learn from it and make it better the next time
- And then move on...



Developing Resiliency to Overcome Failure and Achieve Success

- Accumulate meaningful accomplishments
- Have faith in your ability to perform
- Your successes to date are not an accident
- You would not be where you are unless you were competent and knowledgeable
- Be true to yourself and have integrity



ACT Confidently, Even When You're Not Certain

- Perfectionism is a confidence killer
- Recognize that no one knows everything
- Striving for perfection actually keeps us from getting much of anything done
- Experiment by offering ideas about which you feel less than 100 percent confident
- See what happens if you express something about which you are only 95 percent confident



Seek Feedback and Build Relationships to Grow Confident

- Seek feedback from others to help see challenges in a new way
- Listening to feedback without taking criticism personally is essential to building confidence and resiliency
- Effective leaders are vulnerable and see honest feedback as a chance to get better and gain perspective
- Look for opportunities to share insights



Confident and Resilient Leaders Share Perspectives

- Practice self awareness
- Define yourself, don't allow others to do so
- Balance optimism and realism
- Identify your passion, if you love what you do it will show
- Your passion will carry you through the roughest times
- Have confidence in yourself as a leader



Shared Perspectives on Confidence and Resiliency

- Prepare for advancement but don't think that you need to know it all before you apply for the next step
- Be bold, learn, grow, LEAD
- Visualize where you want to go, if you can see yourself in the future, you can get there
- Declare what it is you want to do, say it proudly and BELIEVE IT



Sometimes you've got to put
on your big girl boots
and prove that you
can use the pointy end.



Leading Confidently Into the Unknown Group Discussions

- Reflect on your own professional paths and experiences with confidence or a lack thereof
- What successes do you not hesitate to own and promote?
- Where do you need to give yourself permission to confidently embrace your skills and accomplishments?
- How can we help one another rewrite the stories we tell ourselves and others to get ready for new opportunities?



Leading Confidently Into the Unknown Group Discussions

- How can we develop confidence in ourselves and cultivate it in others?
- Does confidence come from our genes or can we learn it? How?
- Is confidence more critical than competence? Why?
- Why do so many women, even the most successful, seem to struggle with feelings of self-doubt?