

ATHENA Leadership Model

The ATHENA Leadership Model Invites And Challenges Us To Change The World

The ATHENA Leadership Model incorporates the leadership practices of ATHENA® Award Recipients. Drawing on the talents of women and men inclusively, the model affirms a values-based philosophy of leadership that celebrates relationships and service to the community.

With a grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Foundation surveyed ATHENA Award recipients to determine the unique characteristics of the ATHENA leadership style. With the help of national authorities on leadership and women's issues, the surveys were evaluated and a framework was developed to provide a vehicle for assessing and changing the way that both women and men lead.

The ATHENA Leadership Model is comprised of eight core tenets:

1. **Authentic Self:** Understanding who you are - your values, beliefs and thoughts. Honoring your uniqueness. Accepting personal responsibility for your actions.
2. **Celebration & Joy:** Appreciating and acknowledging your accomplishments. Looking forward to your life with a sense of hope and purpose.
3. **Collaboration:** Reaching out beyond what you can achieve on your own. Working in unison with others, while celebrating diverse points of view, ideas and actions.
4. **Courageous Acts:** Standing up and standing firm in the face of fear. Taking risks to speak the truth or challenge the way things have always been done.
5. **Fierce Advocacy:** Supporting and acting on your passion for people, causes or ideas. Creating an unstoppable force for the greater good.
6. **Giving Back:** Serving the greater good. Committing to help your personal community of family, friends and peers as well as the global village at large.
7. **Learning:** Challenging yourself to listen and be open to what is new and unfamiliar. Expanding and developing your knowledge, skills and experiences. Teaching others.
8. **Relationships:** Connecting with and embracing others. Appreciating the gifts and talents of different people in your life