

December 1, 2008



Shepperd e-Leader: Vision



Changing the Future of Leadership

Distinguished Lecturer Makes National Headlines

GOPAC Chairman, and recent Shepperd Distinguished Lecture guest, Michael Steele, made quite a stir at this year's Republican National Convention as he urged Americans to, "...drill, baby, drill...and drill now..." as a means to end dependence on foreign oil and gas. The statement was quickly embraced by the attendees and chanted throughout the convention.




GOPAC Chairman, Michael Steele

Once again, Steele's name is sweeping across the national radar as he has announced his bid for Chair of the Republican National Committee. Saul Anuzis, Chair of the Michigan Republican Party and Chip Saltsman who served as Mike Huckabee's Presidential campaign manager, have also announced their pursuit of one of the parties' top spots. Speculative reports indicate that other contenders include incumbent chair, Mike Duncan, and longtime GOP leader, Newt Gingrich.

In a press release, Steele indicated his belief that there are numerous conservative voters who have simply lost confidence in the party. "They have just lost any sense of confidence that the Republican Party holds the answers to their problems. We must face the fact that our party has failed in recent years to live up to our own principles -- we have failed to be 'solutions oriented' in addressing the concerns of all Americans." In order to address these concerns, Steele stated that, "The Republican Party must present a vision for the future of America that relies on our conservative values and core principles."

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John Ben Shepperd
Public Leadership
Institute

"If you do not know where you are going, every road will get you nowhere."

-Henry Kissinger

"The empires of the future are empires of the mind."

-Winston Churchill

"Vision is the art of seeing the invisible."

-Jonathan Swift

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Coming Soon: *Potus 44*

President-Elect, Barack Obama has been extremely busy during this transitional period. The John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute is preparing to lead participants on a journey of this historic administration. Be sure to read next month's *Shepperd e-Leader* for details!

Leadership Word Study: Vision

Vision—it's an interesting, almost enigmatic word. It is used to annotate eyesight and foresight. It's different from a "dream" - or is it? Would Martin Luther King's famous speech had the same impact if he had said, "I have a vision?" So what is VISION really? According to one definition, it is:

The unique ability to observe resources and available personnel and harness those in a vibrant manner; then project into the future the result of concentrated action. It is ability to translate the past and the present into the future and to inspire others to vigorously embrace the same translation (or vision).

Rarely does a "vision" appear in a state of full maturation. It is a developmental process of considering elements in a unique way and having the wisdom to discard that which will not integrate. The process normally has three stages to obtain fruition:

Stage One - birth of a vision: It is a time of great excitement, high expectations, and increased energy. There is often an "ah ha!" moment when one realizes the life-altering potential

Stage Two - death of a vision: Now the real work begins—to gain support from people and from resources. This is hard, and therein lies the rub. One becomes discouraged, and even begins to question one's thought process—and often one's own sanity. Desire begins to fade and thoughts such as, "this will never work," "where did I go wrong," and "I can't believe I ever mentioned this to anyone" begin to surface.

Stage Three - re-birth of a vision: When one trudges through the work and disillusionment and continues to fight and believe, the "vision" re-emerges and begins to take on a life of its own. It becomes, at long last ... A REALITY!

Listed below are several individuals who have experienced these stages, and endured to affect change. As you examine this list, see if you can trace the stages of "vision" in each life.

Winston Churchill
Mother Teresa
Martin Luther King
James Bowie
Bill Gates

Margaret Thatcher
Mahatma Ghandi
Sam Houston
Billy Graham

John F. Kennedy
Indira Ghandi
Eva Peron
Jonas Salk