



5 Key Traits that all Influential business leaders have

Being an influential business leader isn't something you can achieve in a day, or through bossing people around and forcing your results.

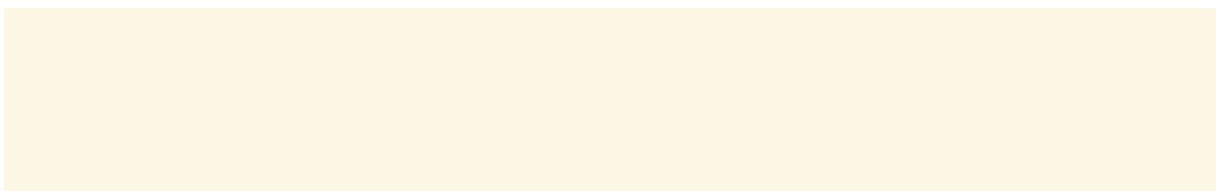
Set aside the desire for titles and accolades, a leader who has influence is one who has backing. Executive Grapevine looked at five popular traits from Deep Patel's Entrepreneur article and

Always learning

Adapting to situations and the industry around you is something that everyone should do, but few really effectively manage to. By keeping your knowledge fresh and staying well-read on the new techniques in the industry, you can gain some more power over the processes in your company. Having that power and that knowledge, which you can readily give to other employees and demonstrate in your own projects, will turn heads and bring you influence. ***You should always be open to change and new ways of managing.***

Make connections

Building business networks internally with your colleagues and externally through online platforms and industry events really allows you to make an impression on people. If you keep your profile fresh and alive then people can engage with you and use what you do to model their decisions. Similarly, at events it's always good to offer help to those who seem like they need something or could do with advice. This selfless act will gain you traction in social circles and you'll be known as the go-to leader in your field.



High expectations (of themselves and others)

To be a successful leader you need to be able to analyse and criticise the work of your employees and colleagues in a constructive way that pushes them to do the absolute best. Show enthusiasm about the work that they do but leaders also make sure to set an example. It's important to understand where the bar is set for your work as well and be able to self-assess in a way that may seem cut-throat but is about gaining the best results possible. This way, everyone in the team sees that you are keeping your expectations of yourself and them on par which will help everyone feel valued.

Value other people's input

By influencing and acknowledging those around them, an influential leader will let others shine and help them develop. Being a leader is about developing your team and thus, the best leaders understand that when others are successful, it's to be encouraged. It doesn't eclipse your personal achievements when others find success. Top business leaders also listen to the input of those around them, promoting open feedback so that critical ideas aren't missed in the process of creating the best product or service possible.

Makes sure that you always offer value

Successful business leaders make sure that they are always indispensable. This way, they are essential to achieving the best results in any area and can constantly impart knowledge onto the rest of the team. You can be that person by constantly updating your skillset to the top things around and encouraging collaboration between colleagues in projects. This way, even if your input isn't required, it's appreciated and valued when you give it.

Be open and honest – listen, engage, support and be open to change