



PACIFIC LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



REFLECTIONS

How many times have we heard the phrase, "wow, that person is a born leader!" Well, I would opt that there is no such thing as a "born" leader. Leaders, as I have come to learn through my attendance at the 2004 Pacific Leadership Academy, Senior Leaders Course, become leaders through their knowledge, expertise and most important, by the tools and skills that they obtain by attending courses such as this one. Just one of the many things that I learned is that leaders are not necessarily your senior management! Leaders can be recognized throughout all levels, from the entry-level person that brings in fresh ideas, to mid-level supervisors who recognize the call for change. But unless a person attends a progressive leadership course, he or she will not have the necessary tools to either recognize good leaders, or to use their own background to become great leaders themselves. As we continue to move to a leaner government, and having to do more with less, it becomes increasingly important to recognize exactly where our leadership resides in our organizations, and how we ourselves can step up to the plate and become great leaders in our own right.

During our Senior Leaders Course, we were provided the unique opportunity...no, let me change that and say the honor and privilege, of being educated by 14 of the best and most knowledgeable speakers on building leadership skills. The speakers covered a wide array of topics and presented them in a manner that, I know I speak for my entire class, will always be remembered as we each continue our professional progression. But as everyone in our class reflected during our last few hours together, I came to realize that in fact, we had 38 other instructors in our class...those "instructors" were all of us! Everyone had so much to contribute, and even I, as perhaps the most unassuming person in class, had something to contribute during the "last class exercise." We all had the opportunity to meet other people from all walks of civil service, and after being together for three weeks, friendships and bonds were made that will truly be everlasting. And perhaps one of the best side benefits of attending the Academy is a renewed, refreshed and positive attitude on best government in the world...ours.

So, if anyone has the opportunity and funding through their organization, I implore them to look into attending this premier leadership course, which by the way, is not offered anywhere else in the government. When I was filling out the final critique sheet, one of the questions was, what did I learn from the course? I can't answer for the rest of my fellows, but for me, the answer was easy and it came in just one word...EVERYTHING! Simply put every single word that the instructors presented, the comments by my esteemed Fellows, the direction and advice from our academy consultants, and of course, the leadership of our esteemed administrators, L.A. Burke and Sharon Senecal, has cumulatively provided a huge bag of tools and skills to take with me, no matter where I go in civil service. Since this was only the second running of the Pacific Leadership Academy, I'm sure that Ms Burke and Ms Senecal will continue to refine the course structure. But for me, the course was "spot-on." So if you want to become known as a "born" leader, then I would highly recommend that you try your best to attend the Pacific Leadership Academy! I guarantee, you will NOT be disappointed, and you will walk away with a totally different view on how to recognize a leader, and how to become a leader.