CHS family,

The College of Health Solutions creates leaders who reimagine health and create a better future for people and communities on a local and global scale. As we embark on a new year of preparing future leaders, I would like us to ask—for our students and for ourselves—what does it mean to be a leader? Some thoughts:

- Leadership does not require a title or formal role. We can display leadership through any role or situation. Leaders produce excellent work, volunteer to take on responsibility, include and encourage others, and focus on solutions.

- Leadership comes in many styles. Good leaders will adjust their style depending on the circumstance. For example, I generally identify with servant leadership because I find so much pride in your success. Certainly, I had to channel transformational leadership when I led the college through our visioning and restructuring process. At times, I use a coaching style. Recently, I have had to lead strategically through the pandemic.

- Regardless of style, the most important quality of excellent leaders is authenticity. We must be and own who we are and what we do. Some of my most formative leadership experiences have been failures. Falling down and picking yourself up is the best way to learn. Everyone makes mistakes, but you learn from them and strive not to repeat them. That is how you learn to trust and believe in yourself.

Our colleague Adela Grando had the opportunity to explore what it means to be a leader recently as a participant in the Women in American Medical Informatics Association Leadership Program. Through her capstone project, she created four videos of 2-3 minutes each that define leadership, discuss challenges, give advice from diverse leaders and explore why leadership from women is important.

The videos have broad application, so I hope you will take the time to view them. Some of our faculty have told me they already plan to use the videos to start and facilitate discussion with their students and colleagues.

I also hope that you will talk to your supervisor about leadership training opportunities. For example, ASU offers five leadership programs to prepare leaders who can advance the university’s mission and goals. Employees in leadership roles or those who lead without titles or positions are encouraged to participate in these programs which are based around the nine
dimensions of the ASU Leadership Guide. Or, like Adela, consider applying for leadership programs sponsored by the national organizations for your field.

Updates and reminders

- **CHS Fall 2020 All-College Meeting**: Please attend this important opportunity for all of us to come together virtually next Friday, Aug. 28, from 2-3:30 p.m. Submit any questions for me or other CHS leaders in advance by Tuesday, Aug. 25, to CHSDean@asu.edu

- **Daily health checks**: CHS has had a good participation rate for the new mandatory daily health checks this week. I know it is not always easy to form a new habit, so I am pleased to see us solidifying the checks as part of our daily routine. Thank you for doing your part to take care of our community and set the example as a health college.


In closing, my heartfelt congratulations on completing our first day of fall classes yesterday. We have all worked hard to prepare for this day. We can expect that some things will take time to adjust to, but I am hearing that for the most part classes went very well. As we learn new technology and teaching skills, let’s be patient with ourselves, our students and each other. I teach my first ASU Sync class on Monday and look forward to seeing my students and sharing this adventure with them. I am grateful to be on this journey with you as your leader.

Take good care,

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