How the Arts Led Me to Leadership

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REDRaider Talks:
Beyond the Horizon: Inspiring Leaders of the Second Centennial
Unconventional Pathway to Leadership

Timeline:

- 2008: Began teaching as an adjunct for 7 years
- 2015: Began teaching as an Assistant Professor of Practice
- 2016-2017: Unofficially asked to served as Interim Head of Dance
- 2021-2022: Officially asked to served as Interim Head of Dance
- 2022: Officially now serving as Head of Dance
How have these roles impacted my leadership style?

Serving as both an adjunct and a Professor of Practice has given me a ground up viewpoint of the program, allowing me to see things from multiple perspectives as a leader.
My Creative Experience

- BFA & MFA in Dance - 2005, 2008
- Teaching dance for 25 years
- Choreographer for concert dance works for 20+ years
- Choreographer for musicals and operas for 15+ years
- Director for musicals and operas for 10+ years
- Served as the Executive Director for a non-profit dance organization for 8 years
What skillsets as an artist have impacted my role as a leader?

**Interpersonal Communication**
Working with large groups of people with different skillsets and various experiences to create something cohesive onstage - playing to their unique skillsets to allow them to feel confident in their performance.

**Multi-tasking**
Juggling lots of tasks at once; seeing the larger picture while focusing on tiny details.

**Creativity & Flexibility**
Having multiple back up plans and knowing when to shift things when they aren't working.

**Feedback**
Providing or receiving feedback on your work constantly.
"Leadership is not about a title or designation. It's about impact, influence, and inspiration."

Robin Sharma, Author and one of the world’s top leadership experts
Why do I want to be a leader?

Being a leader is an opportunity to have a greater impact on our students, program, department, university, community and beyond.

I take those responsibilities seriously, and I want to serve my dance community to the best of my abilities.
Other Great Resources

TTU President's Leadership Institute: https://www.ttu.edu/administration/president/special/leaderinstitute.php

Books:

- "Emotional Intelligence from Managing Results in a Diverse World" by L. Gardenswartz, J. Cherbosque, A. Rowe (2010)
- "Leading with Strategic Thinking: For Ways Effective Leaders Gain Insight, Drive Change, and Get Results" by A. Olson & B. Simerson (2015)
Questions?

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