

Leadership Training Program Audit



Lead to Soar's Leadership Training Program Audit



Setting the Stage

Very often in discussions on "leadership", we hear about the importance of so-called "soft" skills -- good communication, building collaboration, engaging clients and stakeholders, deploying ethics, being a good listener, etc. But do these skills alone truly encompass what it takes to earn positions at the top?

Through decades of research and consulting to companies like yours on gender equity, the Lead to Soar co-founder, Susan Colantuono, uncovered two important things:

- 1. Women are consistently under-guided and under-mentored in one area of leadership that rarely gets discussed developing and deploying business, strategic, and financial acumen to achieve and sustain outcomes for the organization.
- 2. The most important skills to demonstrate (according to executives) that weigh into a candidate's selection for advancement to the senior and executive levels are... business, strategic, and financial acumen.



For organizations serious about closing their gender leadership gap, it's important to include a leadership training audit upfront. This will help guide some of the steps to take to level the playing field, yes, AND to ensure you are RETAINING YOUR TOP TALENT. Research has shown time and time again, talented professionals who do not feel supported to advance – leave.

Audit Instructions

Review the syllabus or overview for your organization's leadership training program (whether internal or external) along with the second page of this document. Put a check mark every time a training topic falls into one of the categories listed on the next page. When you finish, tally up your check marks for each of the three major categories. Be sure to categorize each area/module/ or chapter of the training.

Post-Assessment Questions

- Does the leadership program skew heavily in one area of leadership? Which one? Why?
- Does the leadership training program adequately emphasize the areas where candidates must show strengths to advance (namely, Outcomes), especially to higher levels?
- In what areas might the leadership program require additional/different emphasis? How will you go about creating this emphasis, particularly to level the playing field for women?



Leadership Training Program Audit Worksheet



PERSONAL GREATNESS	
Curiosity	Skills (technical or otherwise)
Integrity	Worldview/Personal Values
Bringing passion	Work Ethic
Reliability	Executive Presence/Gravitas
Consistency	Personal Purpose or Mission
Authenticity	Adaptability/Resilience
Charisma	Other Total
ACHIEVING & SUSTAINING OUTCOMES	
ACHIEVINO & 3031AII	MINO OUTCOMES
Business Perspective	Deciphers internal ability to achieve targets
Create shareholder value	Sets or recommends strategy
Understands market dynamics	Executes on strategy
Makes good business case	Recognizes & adjusts to threats
Understands financial reports	Recognizes & adjusts to opportunity
Communicates financial details	Connects overall strategy to team initiatives
Deciphers external forces & trends	Total
ENGAGING GREATN	ESS IN OTHERS
Empowers/Motivates	Customer/Client Engagement
Communication/writing skills	Form strong internal network
Cultivates individuals	Form strong external network
Aligns team to short-term goals	Represents company in key orgs
Presentation skills	Provides actionable feedback
Inspires others	Other
Resolves conflicts well	Total

