

Christopher M. Baumgartner – Leadership Statement

Leadership is synonymous with relationship—a true leader focuses on building up people, not ideas. They help others realize their goals and aspirations through supportive guidance and by fostering one’s passion. Leaders embolden others to dream creatively, think outside the box, and marry possibility with reality. Collaborative efforts should be respectful, open to new ideas, and non-judgmental—born from a safe environment where thoughts, ideas, and feelings are shared and honored. Effective leaders model balancing a positive work ethic with other life responsibilities, demonstrating positive time management skills and expecting the same from their peers. Recognizing our own limitations—and welcoming suggestion or others’ assistance—is imperative to being a successful leader. The humility in knowing when to ask for help, seek others’ perspectives, or admit failure are all important in modeling what makes us human. My students respect my honesty, and that mutual respect has carried me a long way in my career. I strive to lead with decency, the valuing of an individual’s voice, and creating meaningful and personal connections—building relationships.