

## Ryan Meeks - Leadership Statement

I firmly believe that the measure of our leadership is found in the people and organizations that we lead. I frequently turn to L. David Marquet's words as a foundation for my work as an educator and leader— "Leadership is embedding the capacity for greatness in the people and practices of an organization." Perhaps the most important bit of this quote is the part which is only implied, "...and then get out of the way and let them be great!" While this may sound good on the surface, it can only be achieved through a focus on building connections with people and by honoring each person's unique strengths and perspectives. A leader provides direction—a vision presented to explain "why"—then empowers the members of the organization to utilize their collective expertise and creativity to refine and fulfill that vision. While visionary leadership is essential to the success of an organization, that success may only be realized through the greatness of its people and practices.