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Corporate Communique . . .

ROBERT DENNEY Associates, Inc.

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Some Characteristics of a Successful Leader

You can't learn how to be a good leader by just taking a management course or reading a book. However, everyone can learn a lot about effective leadership by examining the characteristics that successful leaders possess. Here are some of them.

Vision. Strong leaders have a vision and communicate it.

Willingness to change. Followers tend to resist change. Leaders welcome it.

Compassion. Strong leaders show empathy. People need to know that they matter and have a role in the success of the organization.

Courage. Douglas MacArthur once said, "Courage is just fear that holds out a little longer." At times a leader has to make decisions others don't agree with. It's part of the job.

Listening. Leaders listen to learn and understand what their people are thinking and what is working – and not working – in the organization.

Communication. Leaders set the example for open – and honest – communication.

Delegation and Empowerment. Successful leaders don't dictate. They delegate responsibility – and the authority to go with it.

Patience. Rome wasn't built in a day. Leaders remember that and keep plugging away.

Accessibility. Great leaders get out from behind their desks and visit with the troops. By doing so they spread a simple yet incredibly powerful message: "We're in this together."

Humility. They give others the credit for success – and take the blame themselves for failure.

Example. Leaders set the example for their people. They don't just "talk the talk". They also "walk the walk."

Few of us are natural-born leaders but we can all improve our leadership skills.

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Bob Denney is a recognized authority on management, strategy and leadership. His client list includes more than 900 companies, professional firms and non-profit organizations throughout the United States. He serves as an outside Director on company boards and has also served as an interim CEO in turnaround and crisis situations. More information is posted on our web site www.robertdenney.com

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