

## **The Value of and Process for Purposeful Leadership**

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Leadership is a critical factor in the success or failure of a project, program, or organization. There is a need to educate people currently serving in leadership roles, as well as emerging leaders, about established evidence-based practices. Individuals need to know about effective tools to help develop initiatives that promote dance (or other fields of interest) in various aspects of schooling and community life. They need to recognize the importance of purposeful leadership in developing creative, healthy, and physically active lifestyles. Just as dance is a performing art, so is leadership. Mastery of both involves self-development and mastery of specific skills. A planned leadership program can engage people in purposeful critical thinking, problem solving, communications, collaboration, and empowerment to address issues or challenges at any level chosen for service. A leadership program should aim to 1) enhance leadership skills and management practices, 2) promote the use of effective strategies for program development, 3) stimulate self-reflection, and 4) promote scholarship among current and emerging leaders. A leadership program can strengthen the quality and contributions of individuals to the field of dance, the education community, and the general population. Program success at any level is dependent upon the application of effective leadership practices in a positive direction.