

Lessons in Leadership Discussion Guide: Frank Boykin Jr.

Lessons in Leadership is an interview series sponsored by the Center for Leadership & Social Responsibility designed to share leadership insights from successful leaders in local and regional organizations. In the series, we talk with diverse business leaders across various industries to explore the lessons they have learned that can enrich our understanding of effective leadership and social responsibility.

[Watch](#) the interview with Frank Boykin Jr., Director of the Manufacturing Industrial Council (MIC) for the South Sound.

1. Frank Boykin Jr. understands that “as a leader, [he] engages in the manufacturing and maritime communities differently.” Why might it be important to adapt your leadership to different constituencies?
2. Boykin Jr. had to center his priorities during the pandemic. How might you recenter your priorities as a leader to adapt to changing social and political circumstances.
3. Boykin Jr. uses the quote “I established that my seat at the table was everyone’s seat at the table.” How influential is this concept to others as a leader, when trying to get people to follow and trust you?
4. Boykin Jr. understands that in every business there are always competing demands. He states that “there is always a sliver of middle-ground in every issue.” As a leader why is it important to engage with others for their thoughts and inputs on these types of issues?
5. How have friends and family affected Boykin Jr’s development as a leader?
6. Why is it important for others to see Boykin Jr’s civility in his leadership?
  - How does the centered or unselfish style of leadership bring out the best in others?
  - What happens if we don’t lead by putting the people first?
  - Why should we always question the status quo?
7. Why do you think Boykin Jr. admires leaders who pivot and adapt, mentor others, and create a reimagining strategy?
  - How can organizations use a reimagining strategy when incorporating diversity, equity and inclusion into their work?
8. Why is it important that employers or leaders show that their employees or people are valued to create leveraged relationships?