From Plato to Philanthropy Make a Plan and Enjoy the Ride.

Dr. Robiaun Charles is from Atlanta, and she asks us to answer some questions:

1. What is the vision, mission, and purpose of either the University of Texas at Austin, or Gateway, or LLP?

   - To change lives for the benefit of society.

2. What is your vision, mission, and or purpose?

   - To make an impact on others around me, by using my talents and knowledge.

She introduces leadership in its dimensions, defining leadership as something to execute a common goal. Inspiring others to achieve a common goal. To influence other to help guide others. The ability to guide others without force.

Dr. Robiaun Charles speaks about the different energies of leaders, charismatic, or a service leader. The many skills identified with Leadership are an array of varieties, and she
Quotes:

“I think of leadership as a coin. One side has to do with organizational leadership, because it involves others beside yourself. What I propose is the other side of the coin, and what they other side is, is about you.”

“There are all of these different assessments, and they are very important. It’s important that people understand what skills they have to Lead.”

“If that stepping out is in aligned with what you feel destined to do, I think personal leadership also takes a willingness to be open to learn about yourself.”

“If you forget everything else I said, its that you should lead you! This is a wonderfully exciting time for all of you in your life. Lead you and the rest will follow.”

Questions:

Did you regret not going engineering, what class made you switch?

There was a department fare, and you could talk to different faculty. She met the chair of the philanthropy department, and started a conversation based of a book she read in High School, and the rest is history.

speaks of the Minor Brigs server. She is a ENT or SJ!

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It is about you. The right on target definition of leadership is really about you, and personal leadership. As a result of personal leadership, it is leading by example. However the way you present yourself, your characteristics, and how you conduct yourself as a person, is personal leadership.

Personal Leadership: Personal leadership is the ability and desire to crystalize your thinking and to establish a specific destination and direction of your life.

Although the organizational side of the coin is highly important, the other side, Personal Leadership side, is just as important as well. It takes courage.

“I always thought I would be an engineer. I took all of the class you were suppose to take. My high school was a magnet high school for engineers. Then I went to college, and I was exposed to new classes. Everyone knew I did well in my engineering classes. But one class in college that did not resinate with me, was my engineering class, but my philosophy class did.”

Courage is necessary to be a personal leader. (She did end up majoring in philosophy.) It takes the willingness to fail. To have an open mind.

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Dr. Robiaun Charles believes that, as people, we invest a lot of time in learning about things that are outside of ourselves. It is important to learn about you as well!
“What do you want to do? Invest that time in you.”

She stresses that it is vital to invest in ourselves, and our own personal leadership.

Create your own playbook! “Understand that the plays in your playbook may need to change and it is ok, that is part of the journey in life.”

Some of her personal examples she decided to share, are more finite. Her senior thesis was on Plato’s Intellectual Elitism In The Orality/Literacy Conflict.

At the Association of Funding Professionals, she elevates the awareness and knowledge that fundraising has on the state of Texas in philanthropy projects. She opted her experience through public relations, and she started working in PR relations at an agency. She loved the work, but didn’t like the agency experience. She then began to work in non-profits, and as a result she was introduced to the profession of fundraising.

So LEAD YOU!

“If you forget everything else I said, its that you should lead you! This is a wonderfully exciting time for all of you in your life. Lead you and the rest will follow.”

Questions:

What was the biggest transition from majoring in philosophy, and PR, to working with a Non-Profit?

For me, my philosophy degree has been incredibly instrumental in all my experiences. I can write well, express myself orally, and be a critical thinker. That transferred very well in the career choices I’ve made. Being able to think critically about the issues that effect non-profits.

After you have failed at something, what is your next step after that? What do you do if you still fell like where you are not suppose to be.

Recently at Washington DC, I had the opportunity to see some “behind the scene” things. This was the result of the person who I was traveling with. She had unbelievable access. After we tour her work place in the West Wing, we go out to dinner and she is in her early 30’s. Her friend, saying that she wasn’t as happy as she wanted, even though she didn’t know what was next. She felt like she has done it all. So Dr. Robiaun Charles asked her, “What are you passionate about?” With her response she didn’t know. It is absolutely important to know what drives you.