



REINVENTING LEADERSHIP:

Who Wants to Lead, Who Doesn't,
and What Employees Really Think of
Their Leaders

October 26, 2021



Together,
we make
transformation
happen

POLL

Which of these are you **less likely to embrace** in a post pandemic world?



High Fives?



Handshakes?



Buffets?



Touchscreens?



Mosh Pits?

LEADERSHIP

WHAT ABOUT LEADERSHIP?

A man in a dark blue suit, white shirt, and red tie is sitting at a desk. He is wearing glasses and has a beard. He is holding a smartphone to his ear with his right hand and looking at a laptop screen with his left hand. The background is a bright, out-of-focus office environment with warm lighting.

Work-From-Home Might Prove Managers Are No Longer Necessary



Todd Nordstrom Contributor ⓘ

Careers

Vice President at www.Paradox.ai

LEADERSHIP IS READY FOR REINVENTION

WHERE TO START? WE ASKED!

- What are the biggest successes and stumbles of leaders?
- Are your managers doing a good job? What do you need from them?
- What motivates you about the work you do?
- Do you want to be a people leader? Why? Why not?



SUCCESSSES

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST LEADER SUCCESSES?



POLL

What are the biggest stumbles of the leaders you've followed?

Arrogance

Poor
communication
skills

Inability to
handle conflict

Not
trustworthy

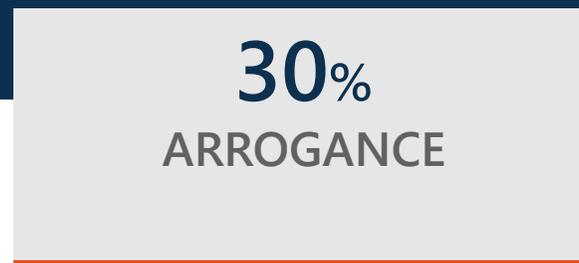
Not diverse
and inclusive

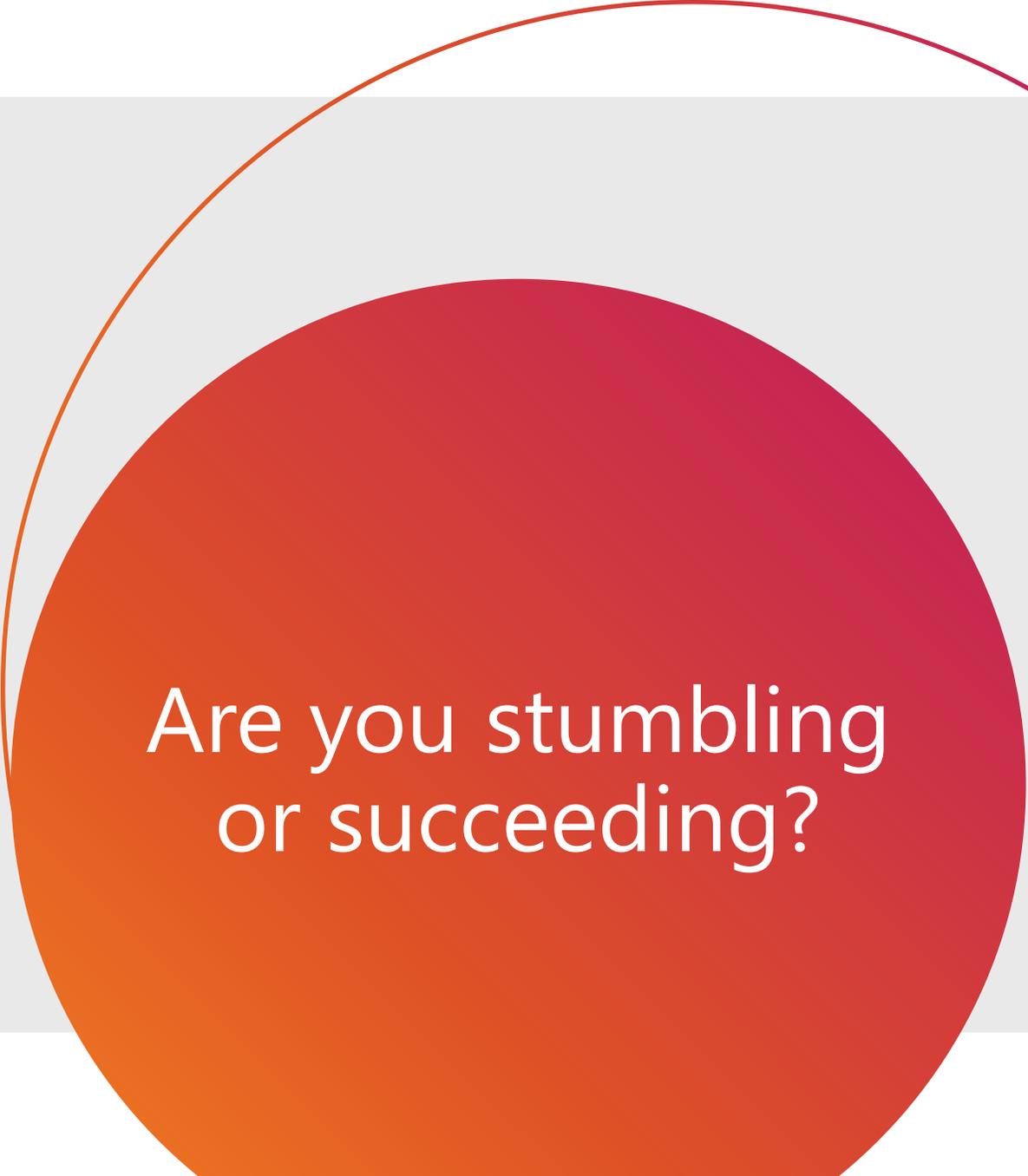
Doesn't
understand
team challenges

Not in touch
with career
aspirations

Unaware of my
personal life

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST STUMBLES OF THE LEADERS YOU'VE FOLLOWED?





Are you stumbling
or succeeding?

ASK YOURSELF:

1. Do I share information transparently?
2. Are my people aware of what I'm working on?
3. Do I involve others in the decision making process where I can?
4. Am I communicating for competence as well as connection?
5. Am I aware of how I'm coming across to others?

From Ego EI (Emotional Intelligence)

1

Be willing to
express
vulnerability

2

Ask for help

3

Be inclusive in
your decision
making

4

Make sure you
are hearing
different voices

5

Be transparent
in your
communication

A background image of a business meeting with four people in professional attire. A woman in a white blazer is smiling and looking towards a man in a suit who is holding a pen. Another woman is visible on the left, and a man with glasses is on the right. The image is overlaid with two semi-transparent text boxes.

REINVENTION #1

From Ego to
Emotional Intelligence

REINVENTION #2

From Tell to
Talk



HOW OFTEN DOES YOUR DIRECT LEADER SPEND THEIR TIME PERFORMING THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS?



60% said their managers are **USUALLY OR ALWAYS** delegating.



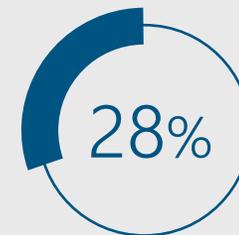
57% said their managers are **USUALLY OR ALWAYS** working **independently**.



54% said their managers are **USUALLY OR ALWAYS** supporting **team collaboration**.



35% of individual contributors said their managers **NEVER OR SELDOM** engage in **career development conversations**.



28% said leaders **NEVER OR SELDOM** spend their time **coaching**.

CHALLENGES COACHING

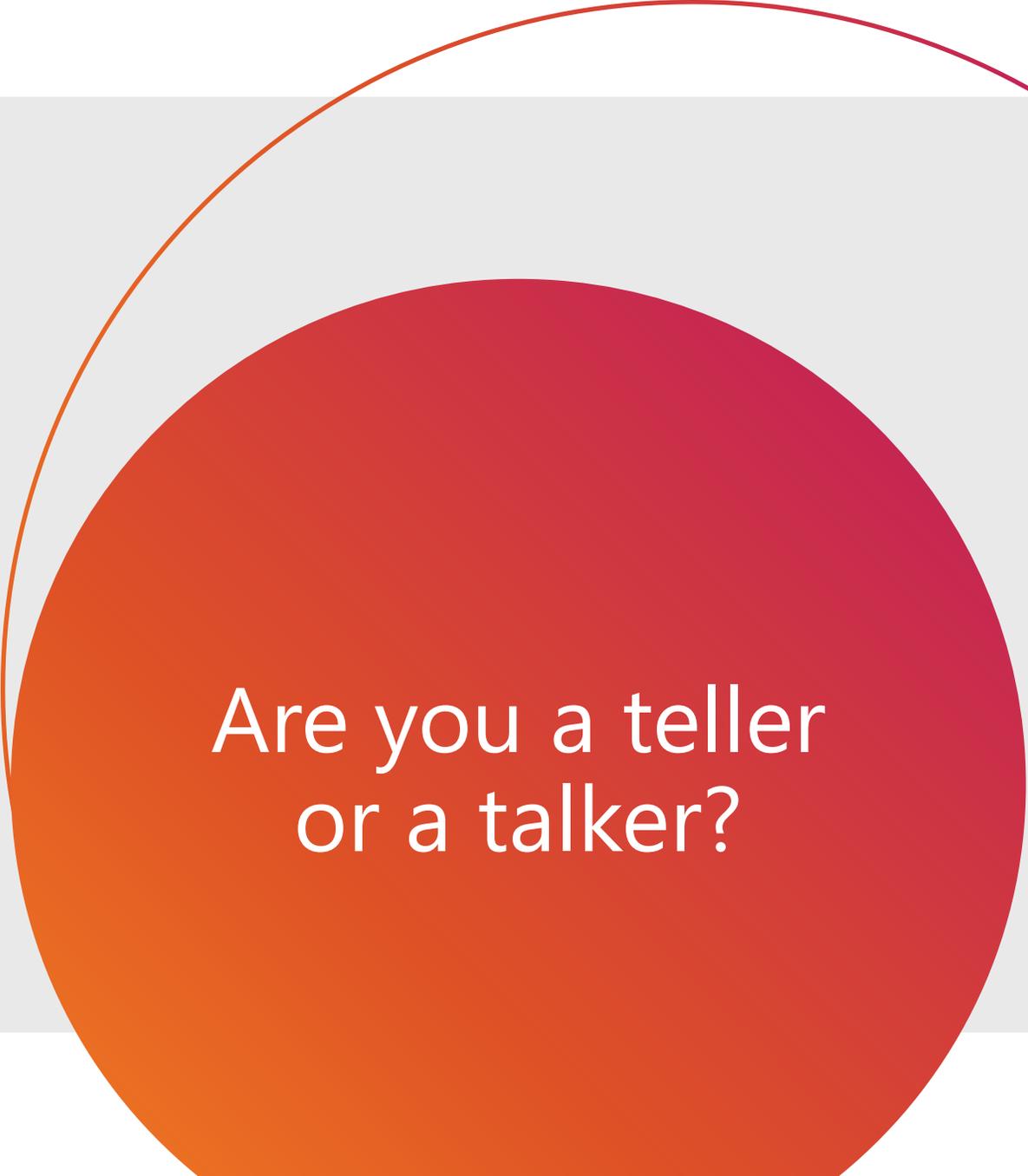
- Less confident
- Lack the skills
- Lack the time
- Not sure how to in a hybrid world
- Talent hoarding mentality
- Not rewarded for coaching
- No one did it for them



WHY COACH?

- High value add activities
- Empowers others
- Encourages innovative approaches
- Demonstrates a vested interest in your employees
- Turnover Tsunami!





Are you a teller
or a talker?

ASK YOURSELF:

1. Who shares first in my team meetings?
My one-on-ones?
2. Do I spend time to tune in to what's happening
with my employees?
3. Do I know their "lived reality" particularly in a
hybrid world?
4. Do I ask thoughtful questions?
5. Do I know what the best work moments of the
week are for my employees? The worst?

From Tell Talk

1

Clarify the “what” more so than the “how”

2

Ask questions and then listen actively

3

Tune in to what’s going on with your employees

4

Make it a habit

5

Understand where you can support

6

Ask them what’s important to them

POLL

How important are the following for you to have in the work you do?

Working with
colleagues I respect

Being well
compensated

Personally growing
and developing

Working in an
environment where
I can show up
authentically/
as my true self

Personal well-being

Work that gives a
sense of purpose

Work/life balance

A background image of a business meeting with several people in professional attire. Three text boxes are overlaid on the image. The first box is pink, the second is orange, and the third is orange. The text in the boxes describes three stages of reinvention.

REINVENTION #1

From Ego to
Emotional Intelligence

REINVENTION #2

From Tell to
Talk

REINVENTION #3

From Organizational
and Personal Values
Separated to
**Organizational and
Personal Values Coexist**



WHAT EMPLOYEES WANT

HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE FOLLOWING FOR YOU TO HAVE IN THE WORK YOU DO?

84% Work-life balance

76% Work with colleagues I respect

83% Wellbeing

74% Show up as my true self

80% Compensation

74% Do work that gives me a sense of purpose



Esau McCaulley

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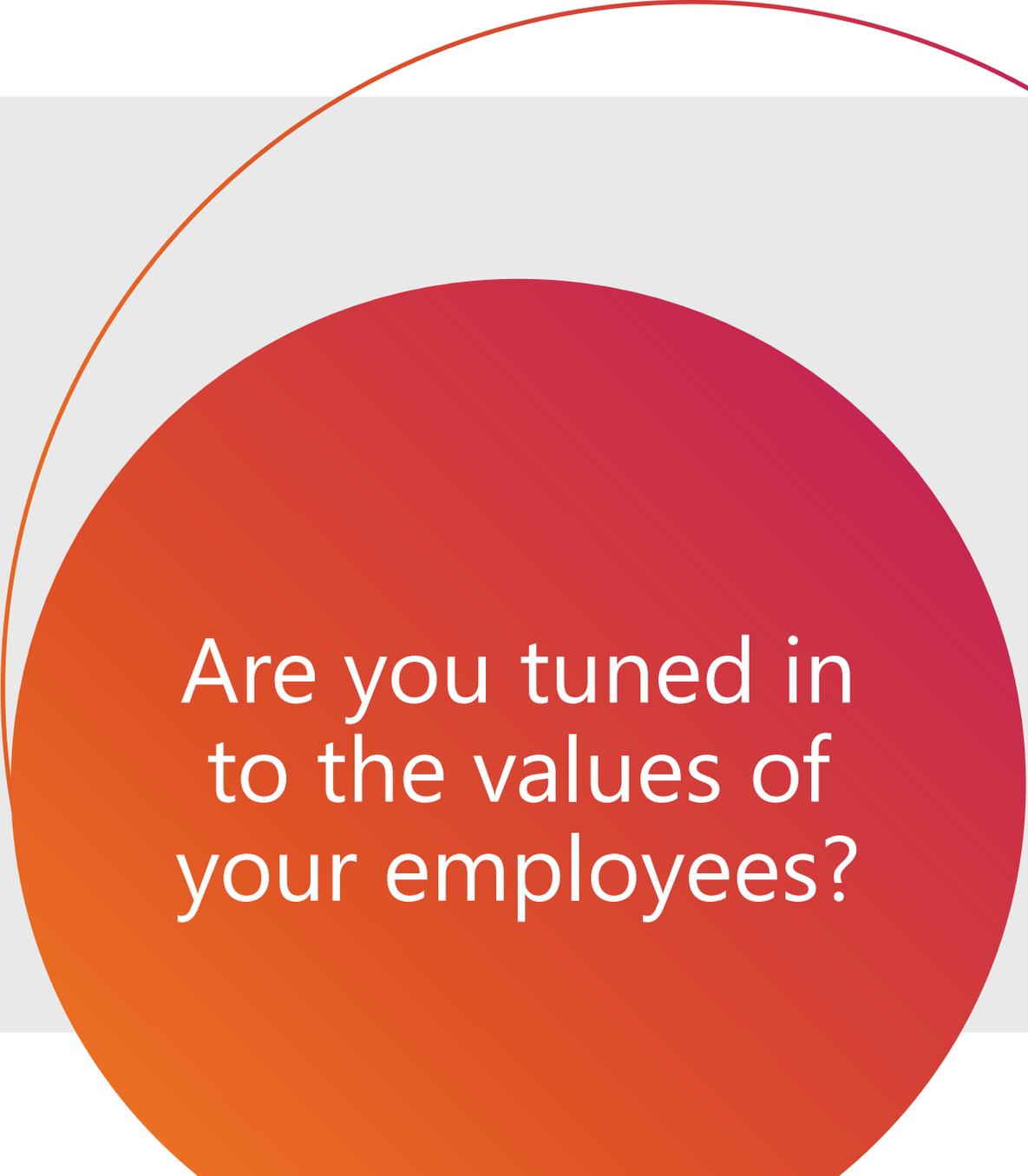
And it seems to be bringing a similar clarity to people about their priorities: The pandemic has led to one of the largest shifts in jobs in recent memory, with millions of Americans making changes. The housing market is exploding as many people reconsider where they want to live. We are in the midst of a societal shift, an awakening to how much we want our lives to be different. But the changes leave an issue unaddressed: Why didn't we know all of that before?

All these changes that people are embarking on during the pandemic make me think that we weren't that happy before the pandemic. What about our lives prevented us from seeing things that are so clear to us now? When I talked to friends and neighbors about this, two themes emerged. The pandemic has disabused us of the illusion of time as a limitless resource and of the false promise that the sacrifices we make for our careers are always worth it.

The pandemic has reminded us that life is more than what we do. It is about whom we spend our lives with. We cannot hug a career or laugh with a promotion. We are made for friendship, love and community.

I recognize that for some, Covid-19 did not raise the same existential questions. They had to deal with the issues of survival, including the need for food and a warm place to sleep. Nonetheless, I have relatives in service industries raising similar questions. They are no longer willing to deal with harassment from rude customers for a barely livable wage. They are struggling to pay their bills, but they are doing so on their terms with their humanity intact.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/21/opinion/pandemic-changes-satisfaction.html>



Are you tuned in
to the values of
your employees?

ASK YOURSELF:

1. Do I know what motivates my people about the work they do?
2. Have I shared what drives me?
3. Am I talking openly about digital fatigue, well being, and work-life balance?
4. Do I create an environment of psychological safety?
5. Am I having career conversations with my people on a regular and informal basis?

Corporate values Personal and Corporate Values

1

If there is a lesson in this for employers, it is to remember that employees are more than workers.

2

They have an identity outside the hours committed to making a living.

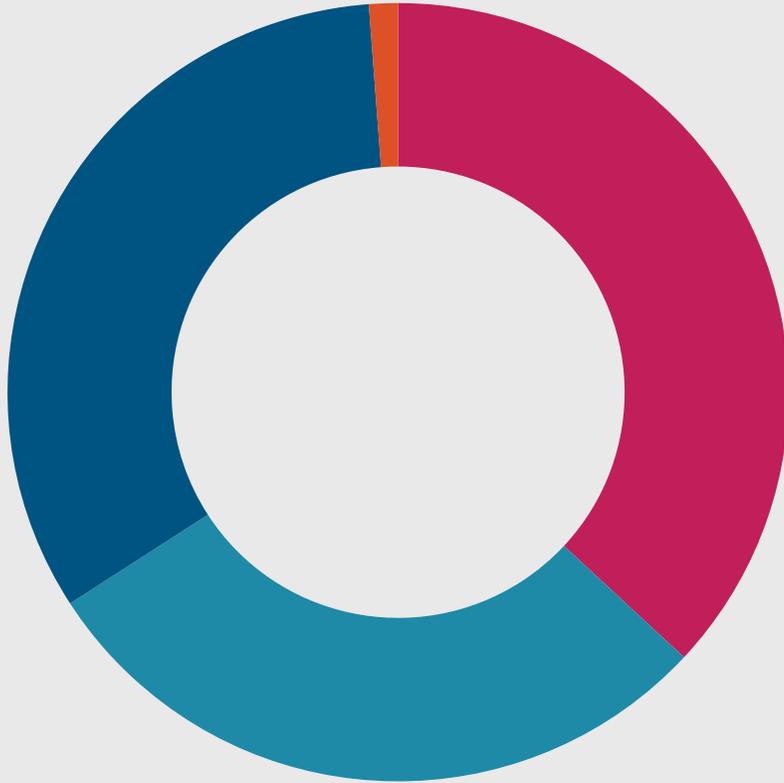
3

Jobs that treat their employees honorably, provide flexibility and leave room for life outside of work will thrive.

Esau McCauley

LEADERS

WHAT ABOUT FUTURE LEADERS?
WHO WANTS TO LEAD AND WHY?



37%
Advance Career

29%
Develop People

33%
Advance Career AND
Develop People

1%
Other



WHY DO YOU
WANT TO BE A
PEOPLE LEADER?



What they want

To develop others and advance their careers



What they value

Work-life balance, wellness, and personal development



Where they want to develop

Skillsets and mindsets



What they need

Career development and coaching



How they want it

Through on-the-job coaching from their leaders



**FUTURE PEOPLE
LEADERS**

THEY WANT THEIR LEADERS TO HELP THEM...

...but, they have
some doubts
about their ability
to do so

"My direct leader
has the
SKILLS
to develop me."

8 point gap
between
confidence and
skills

"My direct leader
has the
ATTITUDE or
MINDSET
to develop me."

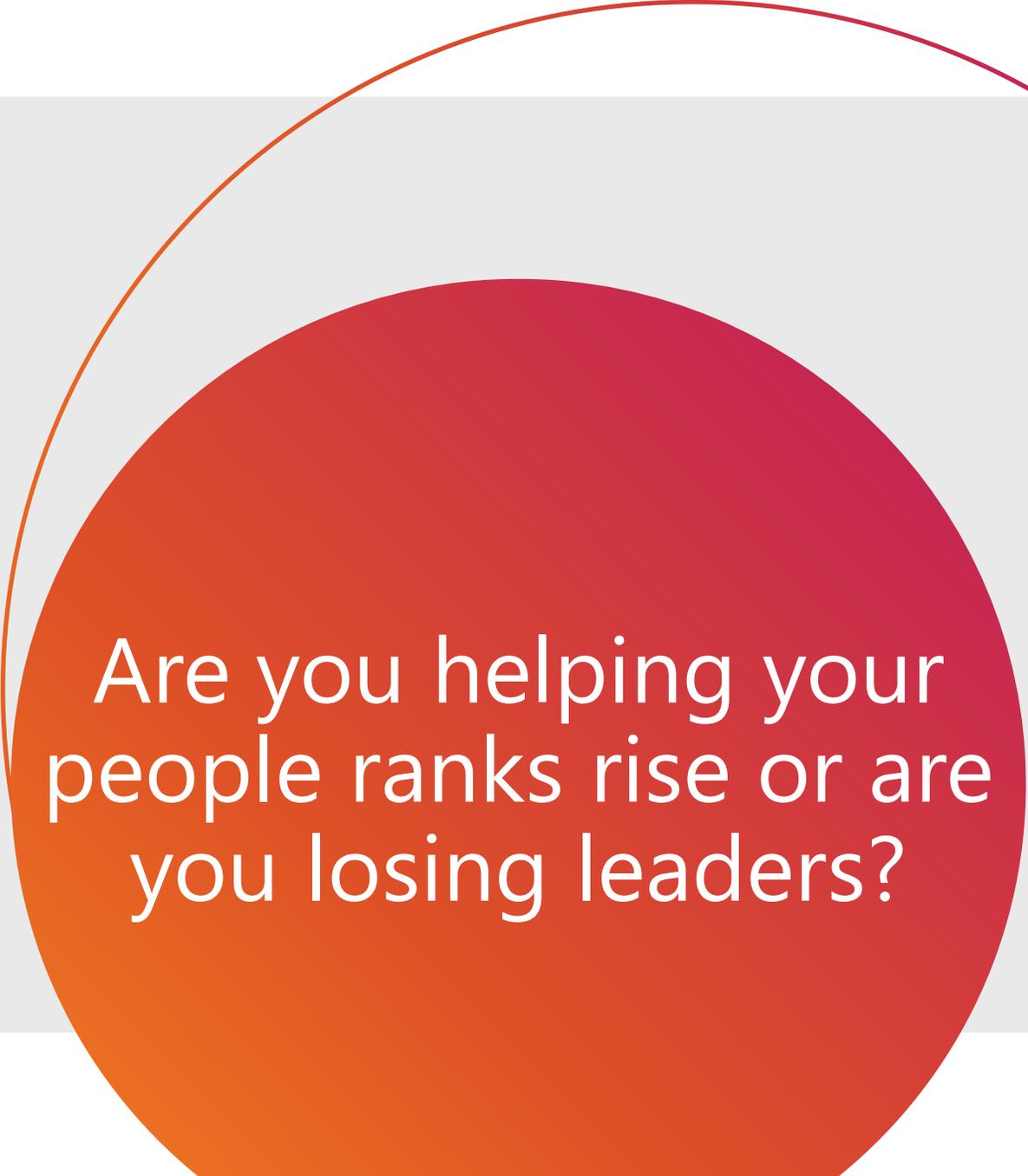
8 point gap
between
confidence and
skills

"My direct leader
CARES
about my
career."

7 point gap
between
confidence and
skills

"My direct leader
is a
ROLE MODEL
for me."

8 point gap
between
confidence and
skills



Are you helping your people ranks rise or are you losing leaders?

ASK YOURSELF:

- Do I know who the Future People Leaders are on my team? Who on my team wants to be a people leader?
- Do they have development plans in place?
- Am I asking them how I can better support their development?
- Am I taking the time to role model key skills?
- Am I having regular career conversations with them?

From Lost Leaders Rising Ranks

Reinventing leadership means a stronger focus on development conversations with future people leaders, including more frequent and transparent conversations about what they want, who can help them, and the best way to go about it.

IT'S TIME TO
REINVENT



Are you bringing a
SPIRAL-BOUND NOTEBOOK
to lead a
PODCAST GENERATION?

REINVENTING LEADERSHIP KEY TAKEAWAYS

REINVENTING LEADERSHIP

Ego to **Emotional Intelligence**

Better communication,
increased transparency,
inclusive decision making,
increased self-awareness,
humility

Tell to **Talk**

Time spent on empowering
and higher value-add
activities like career
development and coaching

Values Separated to **Organizational Values and Personal Values Coexisting**

Holistic approach to
employee engagement with
a focus first on what's
personally important to the
people you lead, including
wellness and work/life
balance

Lost Leaders to **Rising Ranks**

Concentrated effort on
supporting future people
leaders with a focus on their
development needs

THANK YOU!

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WHO WANTS TO LEAD, WHO DOESN'T, AND WHAT EMPLOYEES REALLY THINK OF THEIR LEADERS

Research Report

Reinventing Leadership

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