

CELEBRATE PURDUE WOMEN

BETH HOLLOWAY



WHAT MESSAGES HAVE BEEN IMPACTFUL FOR YOU IN YOUR CAREER?

From Steven Covey's work, I learned the importance of thinking about the things you care about and are interested in, while at the same time understanding your personal sphere of influence. It's much more effective, both for getting things done, but also for your state of mind, to work within what you can influence. I also think that sometimes people who are the first to do something feel like they have to fight a fight so that others behind them are more successful. While I understand that, there's also nothing wrong with saying no.

HOW DO YOU DEFINE SUCCESS?

Being successful means adding value to the others the world individually and collectively. When I was younger, I thought if I did what my boss told me to do really well, then I'd be a success. But in thinking back, I've realized my greatest impacts are things outside my formal assignments - how I interact with others, how I mentor others, and how I encourage people along their own journeys.

WHAT DOES LEADERSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

Because I am in a student-focused role, when I think about leadership, I always keep at the center, "Is this good for ALL students?" Leadership is about influence and how we can influence the current state of things in a way that creates positive change for the people that you're working for the benefit of. The second part of that is, "How do I bring others along with me in that journey?"

WHEN WAS A TIME YOU FELT INSPIRED BY YOUR COMMUNITY?

At every stage, with every new set of responsibilities, I've had someone say, "Yes, you can do that. I believe in you. You're going to be fine. You're going to learn a lot and you will do a great job."

WHAT ROLE HAS COMMUNITY PLAYED IN YOUR SUCCESS?

I don't think there's anything that you could do that you could call a success that you didn't have others along with you to do it. I have found that it's more rewarding when people are with you and not just coming along because they have to, but because they believe in the same things that you believe in.

WHAT ROLE HAS CONNECTION WITH OTHERS PLAYED IN YOUR ACADEMIC SUCCESS?

In a big picture there's no way I could have had the journey I've had without the people that I've had it with. I don't think you can separate the community and your colleagues from where you are now because you have an impact on them, they have an impact on you. Community also helps me remember that it's not all about me, that I'm part of something bigger and to always think about the impact of the things I do on others.

WHAT DOES MENTORSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

I have appreciated the mentors who've empowered me to think through things from different perspectives and figure out the "me" in the midst of that.

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An advocate for research-informed approaches to engineering education, equity, and policy, as well as student recruitment and retention efforts, Holloway has made significant contributions nationally as well as at Purdue University. She is a Fellow of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) and the Society of Women Engineers. She has served on the Boards of Directors for both ASEE and the Women in Engineering ProActive Network (WEPAN). A strong supporter of student development and engagement, Holloway has served as the faculty advisor to the Purdue Society of Women Engineers since 2001.

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