

# Expand Your Own Leadership

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The great Vince Lombardi once said, “Leaders are made, they are not born. They are made by hard effort, which is the price which all of us must pay to achieve any goal that is worthwhile.”

While I completely agree with the famous football coach, research indicates some personality qualities might predispose some individuals to become leaders. This does not mean a leader is defined by having those qualities. I personally never dreamed I would become a leader of an elementary school when I went to Eastern Washington University at 18 years old to become an elementary teacher, and I certainly never thought I would become the president of an outstanding group of principals from across the state.

Nonetheless, here I am and I can say looking back my path to leadership started from a very young age.

My father might tell you that my journey started as the bossy five-year-old I may or may not have been, and I’m sure the path continued in his mind as he dealt with a know-it-all 13-year-old. Although in my opinion it started officially in high school through my participation in athletics, clubs, and student government. Belonging to a group always appealed to me, as it does for most teenagers, but the desire to lead the group was something that grew more and more through the years.

Memorable experiences such as attending the Cheer-Leadership camp in Ellensburg and participating in an ASB Leadership Retreat for small schools with our current AWSP

“ Individual commitment to a group effort — that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.”

— VINCE LOMBARDI

Director, Susan Fortin, and AWSP Learning Centers Director, Marty Fortin, launched my effort toward becoming a leader that has continued ever since. I actively worked towards leadership roles in my college days and in the first years in the classroom. Participating on committees and belonging to groups, I was eager to lead.

Now in the principal role and as an AWSP member, my effort toward leadership has shifted focus from wanting to lead, to wanting to be a better leader. I credit this shift to my experience on the ESPAW/AWSP boards. Because of my involvement I have been able to analyze my leadership style and refine my skills to the betterment of my school community. I also have been able to become a spokesperson for fellow colleagues.

Through AWSP I was able to meet with Gov. Inslee and five other principals and advocate for a change in the principal Pro-Cert requirement. I’m proud AWSP had a strong influence on the ultimate outcome of the Pro-Cert elimination. All of this is to say to you, my fellow leaders, is that if you find yourselves in a



position to expand your participation in AWSP through committee work or perhaps serving on a component board, I highly encourage you. That decision could expand your own leadership journey as it has mine.

Vince Lombardi also said, “Individual commitment to a group effort — that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work.” I hope when the time is right for you, you consider deepening your AWSP commitment. ■



Kelley Boyd is principal of Coulee City Elementary and is serving as AWSP president for the 2017-18 school year.