



# Leading by Values: Strategies for Seamless Work-Life Integration

**Raquelle Akavan, MS, PA-C**  
**President + Founder, PA Moms**  
**Assistant Professor, South University, Austin**

- President + Founder PA Moms
- Assistant Professor at South University Austin
- 10+ years as a surgical PA
- Founding President PAs for Women Empowerment



Raquelle Akavan, MS, PA-C

## **REQUIRED DISCLOSURES**

---

I have no relevant relationships with ineligible companies to disclose  
within the past 24 months.

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

**At the conclusion of the session participants should be able to:**

- Describe the significance of values in leadership
  - Define the concept of work-life integration
  - Identify core leadership values beneficial for integration
  - Implement value-based strategies for integration
  - Illustrate how to develop a culture that supports work-life integration
-

# Section One



**THE ROLE OF VALUES  
IN LEADERSHIP**

---

# What are Values?

- ONE'S PRINCIPLES OR STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOR<sup>1</sup>
- ONE'S JUDGMENT OF WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN LIFE
- WHAT ONE BELIEVES IS IMPORTANT IN HOW ONE LIVES AND WORKS
- DRIVERS OR MOTIVATORS OF ACTIONS AND CHOICES





## List of **VALUES**

Accountability	Environment	Job security	Security
Achievement	Efficiency	Joy	Self-discipline
Adaptability	Equality	Justice	Self-expression
Adventure	Ethics	Kindness	Self-respect
Altruism	Excellence	Knowledge	Serenity
Ambition	Fairness	Leadership	Service
Authenticity	Faith	Learning	Simplicity
Balance	Family	Legacy	Spirituality
Beauty	Financial stability	Leisure	Sportsmanship
Being the best	Forgiveness	Love	Stewardship
Belonging	Freedom	Loyalty	Success
Career	Friendship	Making a difference	Teamwork
Caring	Fun	Nature	Thrift
Collaboration	Future generations	Openness	Time
Commitment	Generosity	Optimism	Tradition
Community	Giving back	Order	Travel
Compassion	Grace	Parenting	Trust
Competence	Gratitude	Patience	Truth
Confidence	Growth	Patriotism	Understanding
Connection	Harmony	Peace	Uniqueness
Contentment	Health	Perseverance	Usefulness
Contribution	Home	Personal fulfillment	Vision
Cooperation	Honesty	Power	Vulnerability
Courage	Hope	Pride	Wealth
Creativity	Humility	Recognition	Well-being
Curiosity	Humor	Reliability	Wholeheartedness
Dignity	Inclusion	Resourcefulness	Wisdom
Diversity	Independence	Respect	
	Initiative	Responsibility	
	Integrity	Risk-taking	
	Intuition	Safety	

*Write your own:*

---

---



# What does this have to do with Leadership?

- WE FEEL AND ACT ON OUR VALUES, WHETHER RECOGNIZED OR NOT
  - DETERMINE AND DRIVE OUR MOTIVATIONS AND PRIORITIES<sup>2</sup>
  - ARE FILTERS IN DECISION-MAKING, EVEN DRIVING DECISIONS
- RECOGNIZING OUR CORE VALUES IN A CLEAR MANNER EMPOWERS US TO MAKE CLEAR CHOICES.<sup>3</sup>
  - GIVES MEANING TO LIFE SITUATIONS, ADDS TO PERSONAL RESILIENCE, & CONTRIBUTES TO PROFESSIONAL JOY



## Some More on Values

- THEY EXIST ON AN INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE LEVEL
- FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS, INDIVIDUAL AND PROFESSIONAL VALUES MAY BE INDISTINGUISHABLE
- CAN CONFLICT OR BE COMPATIBLE
- YOUR ADOPTED VALUES MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM PRACTICED ONES, AND ASPIRATIONAL VALUES MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM PRACTICED ONES



## Section Two



**WORK-LIFE  
INTEGRATION**

---

There's no such thing as balancing work and family. This language points us toward a problem to be solved, a destination at which we arrive. It is far more accurate to say that the relationship with children, and relationship with work exist as an ever-evolving, dynamic, and noisy conversation.

ALEXANDRA H. SOLOMON, PHD

# Work-Life Integration

## THE MYTH OF BALANCE:

- TRADITIONAL CONCEPT OF WORK-LIFE BALANCE IMPLIES A STRICT SEPARATION BETWEEN WORK AND PERSONAL LIFE.
  - OFTEN UNACHIEVABLE IN REALITY DUE TO OVERLAPPING DEMANDS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.<sup>4</sup>

## THE REALITY OF INTEGRATION:

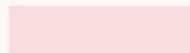
- WORK AND PERSONAL LIFE ARE INTERTWINED AND NOT ALWAYS DISTINCT.
  - EMBRACING FLUIDITY AND INTEGRATION RATHER THAN RIGID SEPARATION.

## WORK-LIFE INTEGRATION:

- FOCUSES ON A SEAMLESS BLEND OF PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL ACTIVITIES.
- ADAPTABLE TO INDIVIDUAL LIFESTYLES AND CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES.

## KEY TAKEAWAY:

- STRIVE FOR HARMONY AND ADAPTABILITY, NOT AN UNATTAINABLE PERFECT BALANCE.
- RECOGNIZE THE FLUIDITY BETWEEN DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF LIFE.



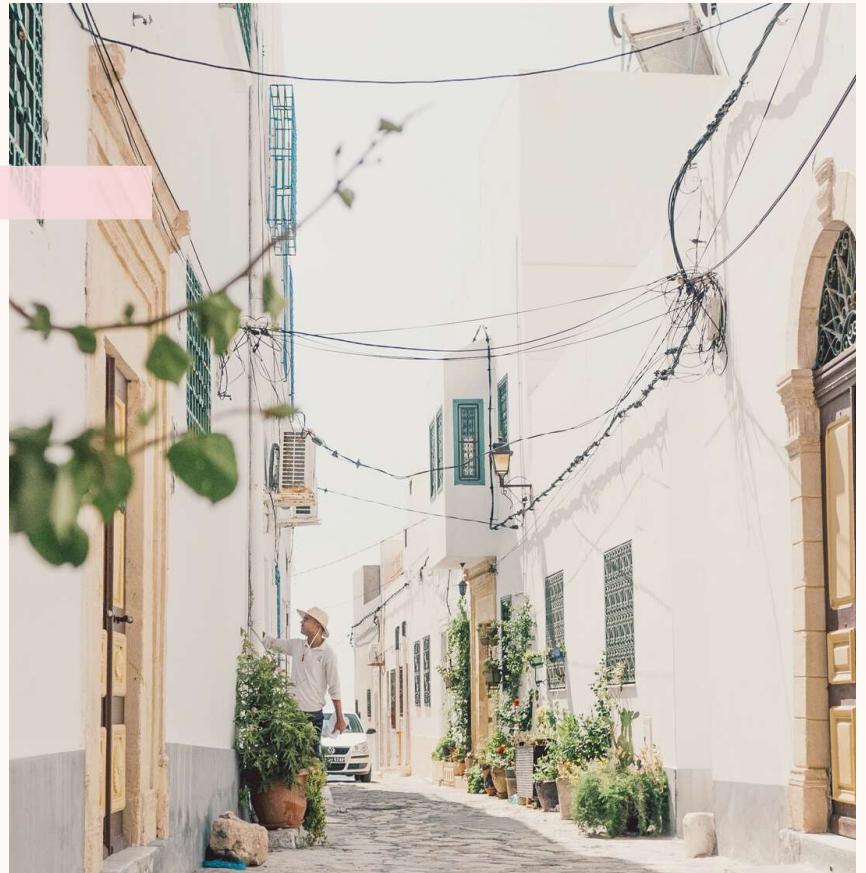
# Boundaries

- BOUNDARIES ARE PERSONAL GUIDELINES THAT DEFINE HOW OTHERS CAN INTERACT WITH US, PROTECTING OUR EMOTIONAL, MENTAL, AND PHYSICAL SPACE.



# Purpose of Boundaries

- Manage time, energy, and resources effectively.
- Prevent work responsibilities from encroaching on personal life and vice versa.



# Boundaries - Importance & Implementation

- ESSENTIAL FOR WELL-BEING AND AVOIDING BURNOUT.
- Allows for focused and productive work while preserving personal time.
- Implementation:
  - Recognizing personal limits and communicating them clearly.
  - Adapting boundaries as per individual lifestyle and priorities.

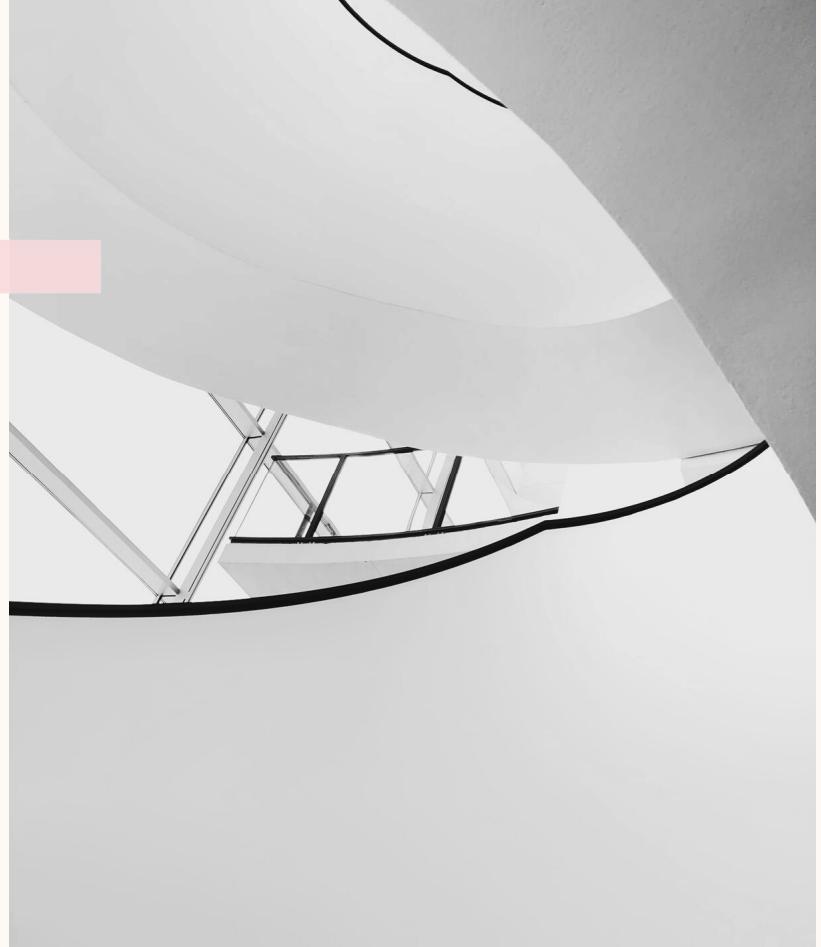
## Real-life example:

I do not check my work e-mail after 5pm



# Challenges to creating Boundaries

- GUILT
- CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR DECISION
  - (HOW IT EFFECTS FRIENDS,  
FAMILY OR CO-WORKERS)
- CONSEQUENCES **OF NOT** SETTING  
BOUNDARIES ARE OFTEN GREATER



# Section Three



**LEADERSHIP & THE  
IMPORTANCE OF  
RENEWAL AND SELF-  
CARE**

---

# Resonant Leadership<sup>5</sup>

## **Resonant Leaders:**

- Inspire and motivate others by connecting with them on a deeper level.
  - Embody passion, purpose, and care in their leadership style.
  - Passion fuels their drive and commitment to their work
  - Purpose gives them a clear direction and sense of meaning, and care demonstrates their genuine concern for the well-being of their team members.



# Leadership, Stress, & Sacrifice Syndrome



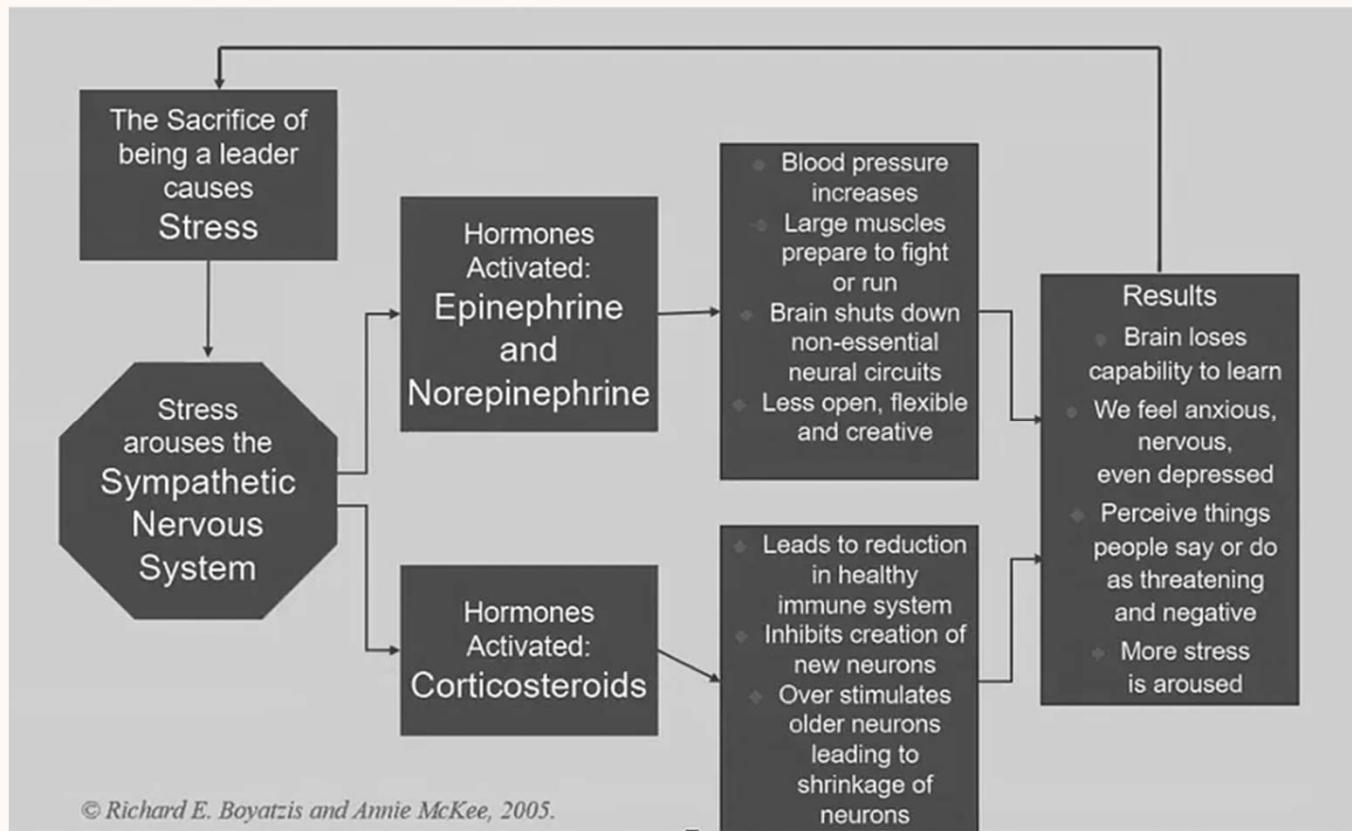
## **Power Stress:**

- Unique stress experienced by leaders due to constant decision-making and responsibility.
- Can lead to exhaustion and reduced effectiveness if not managed.<sup>5</sup>

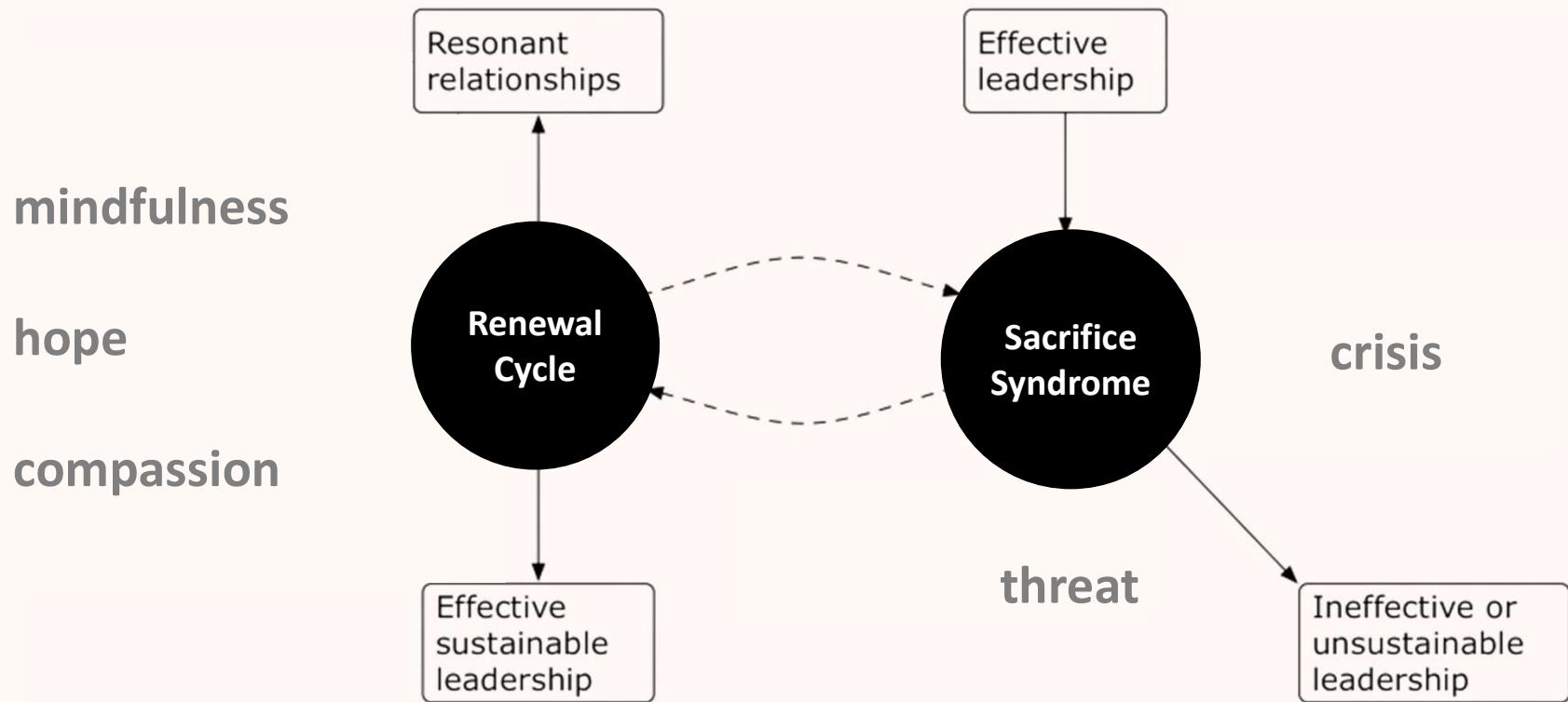
## **Sacrifice Syndrome:**

- The tendency for leaders to prioritize organizational needs over personal well-being.
- Often results in burnout and a decline in leadership quality.

# Sacrifice Syndrome



# Cycle of Sacrifice and Renewal<sup>6</sup>



# How to Manage Cycle of sacrifice and Prevent Leadership Burnout





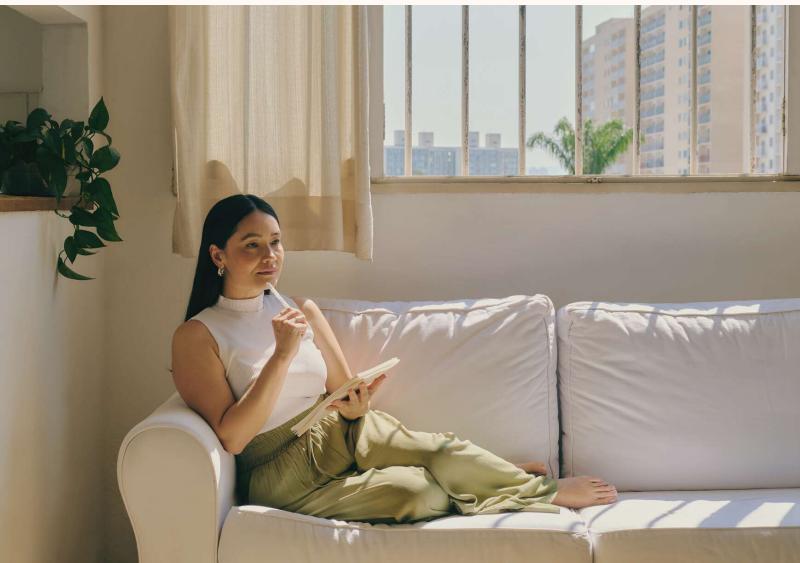
# Renewal

- **Renewal and self-care:** Engage in activities that replenish your energy and spirit.
  - physical activities like exercise, mental activities like reading or hobbies, and emotional activities like spending time with loved ones.
- **Scheduled Downtime:** Ensure regular periods of rest and disengagement from work. This can be daily practices like meditation or regular vacations.



## Again, Boundaries

- Establish clear boundaries between work and personal life. Stick to these boundaries to prevent work from encroaching on personal time and vice versa.



## Mindfulness

- Practice mindfulness to stay present and grounded.
- Develop emotional intelligence to manage your reactions and understand others' emotions.
- Learning from Setbacks: View challenges and setbacks as opportunities for growth. Develop a mindset that focuses on learning rather than on failure.

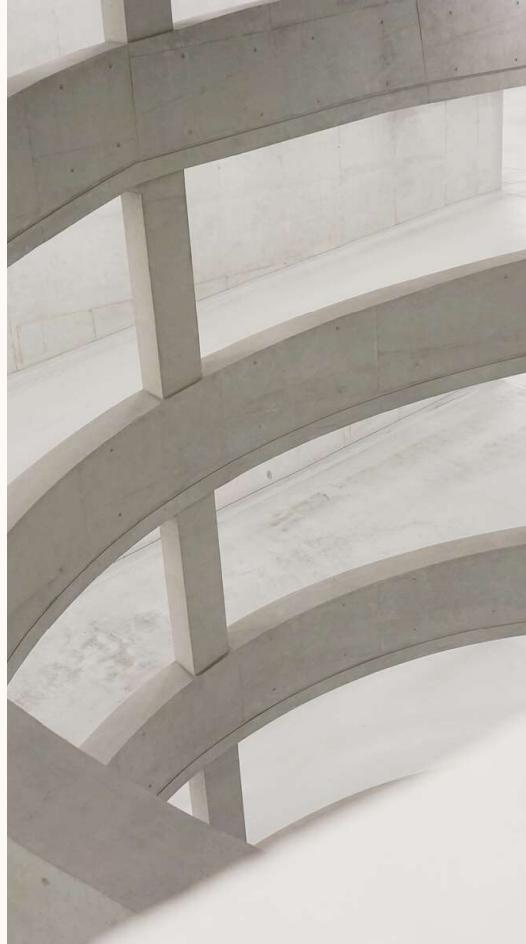


## Know Yourself

- Align Work with **Personal Values** and **Purpose**
- Reflect on Values: Regularly **reflect** on your personal values and how they **align** with your work. This alignment can provide a sense of purpose and **fulfillment**.

*A 2020 meta analysis of more than 30K participants found that authenticity or the degree to which one feels true to oneself is associated with greater Wellbeing.<sup>7</sup>*

# Section Four



**WORK-LIFE  
INTEGRATION IN OUR  
ORGANIZATIONS**

---

# Creating a Trust-Based Culture for Work-Life Integration

A supportive, secure work environment can lead to employees feeling more comfortable balancing their professional and personal lives.

- **Trust in Leadership:** Creating trust within an organization can lead to a more supportive work-life integration culture.
- **Empathy in Leadership:** Empathetic leadership can be applied to understand the personal needs of employees.
- **Safety and Belonging:** Creating a safe environment where team members feel they belong.

# The Circle of Safety<sup>8</sup>



"We won't have work-life balance until we **feel safe** in the place that we live & **feel safe** in the place that we work."

- Simon Sinek

- **Line Makers:** “focused on achieving their own goals and advancing their own careers, often at the expense of others.”
- **Circle Makers:** “focused on creating a sense of community and supporting everyone within that community.”

Circle makers prioritize the well-being of the group over their own individual success.

# Implementing Value-Based Strategies for Integration

- Identify Core Values
- Align Policies with Values
- Regular Training and Communication
- Employee Involvement

# Developing a Culture that Supports Work-Life Integration

- Lead by Example
- Create a Supportive Environment
- Recognition and Respect
- Encourage Open Communication
- Provide Resources and Tools
- Regular Assessment and Feedback

# KEY TAKE HOME POINTS

- **Significance of Values in Leadership:** Recognizing and adhering to core values is crucial for work-life integration.
  - **Work-Life Integration Concept:** Striving for a harmonious blend of professional and personal life, recognizing the fluidity and adaptability required in modern work environments.
  - **Establishing Personal Boundaries:** Required to maintain well-being and managing work-life integration effectively.
  - **Renewal and Self-Care for Leaders:** Leaders should prioritize self-care to maintain their effectiveness and prevent burnout. This includes balancing work demands with activities that replenish energy and spirit.
  - **Developing a culture of work-life integration:** A supportive, secure work environment can lead to employees feeling more comfortable balancing their professional and personal lives.  
This starts with value-based leadership.
-

# What you can do next?

- IDENTIFY YOUR VALUES
- CREATE BOUNDARIES
- PRACTICE RENEWAL AND SELF-CARE
- IDENTIFY WAYS TO INTEGRATE  
THESE PRINCIPLES AS A LEADER

# Questions??

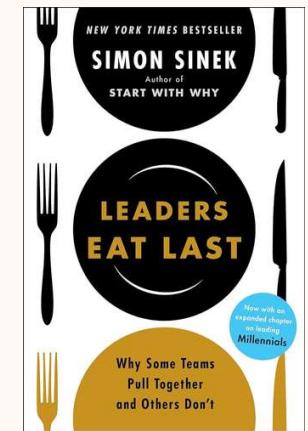
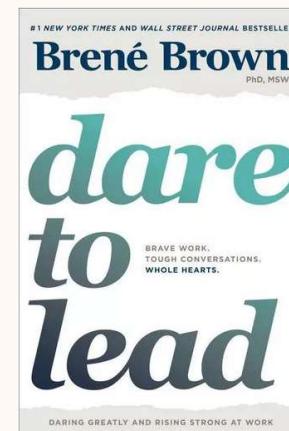
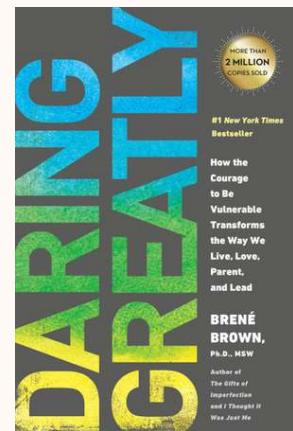
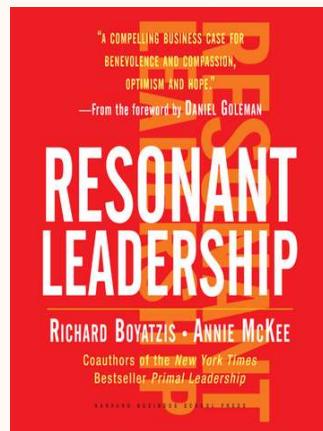
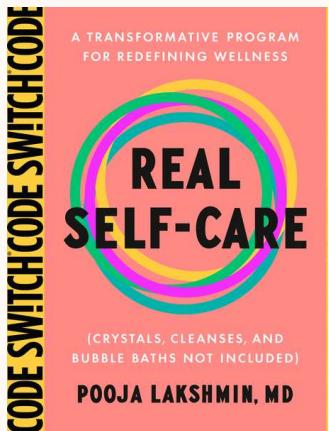
---

HOW DO YOU SEE WORK-LIFE  
INTEGRATION DIFFERENTLY AT THE  
END OF THIS PRESENTATION?

"I've learned that you can't have everything and do  
everything at the same time"

-OPRAH WINFREY

# RECOMMENDED LEADERSHIP BOOKS



# RESOURCES

1. Herrity, J. Examples of Core Life Values and How To Determine Yours. LinkedIn. Accessed December 19, 2023.  
<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/life-valuesResources>
2. Identifying Your Leadership Values: Your Core Values.\_[https://www.indeed.com/hire/c/info/leadership-values?gclid=Cj0KCQiAm4WsBhCiARIsAEJIEzUDhqpDU7H28zwp27iQS7sjNaKm2WTz5SFyy4dxvHwj9Sgh9LKWBUsAkfREALw\\_wcB&aceid=&gclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.indeed.com/hire/c/info/leadership-values?gclid=Cj0KCQiAm4WsBhCiARIsAEJIEzUDhqpDU7H28zwp27iQS7sjNaKm2WTz5SFyy4dxvHwj9Sgh9LKWBUsAkfREALw_wcB&aceid=&gclsrc=aw.ds)
3. Lakshmin P. Real Self-Care. Penguin Life; 2023:164-165. ISBN 9780593489727.
4. Fallon-O'Leary, D. Work-Life Integration Is the New Work-Life Balance. Is Your Team Ready? U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Accessed December 19, 2023. <https://www.uschamber.com/co/grow/thrive/work-life-integration-vs-work-life-balance>
5. Boyatzis, R. McKee, A. Resonant LeadershipBoyatzis RE, McKee A. Resonant Leadership. Boston, MA: Harvard Business Review Press; 2005.
6. Cabeza-Erikson I, Edwards K, Van Brabant T. Development of leadership capacities as a strategic factor for sustainability. 2008. <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Development-of-leadership-capacities-as-a-strategic-Cabeza-Erikson-Edwards/47fb202b2b9099f69397541fb0318f63766416e5>
7. Sutton A. Living the good life: A meta-analysis of authenticity, well-being and engagement. *Personality and Individual Differences*. 2019;153. doi:10.1016/j.paid.2019.109645
8. Sinek, S. Leaders Eat Last/ Penguin Group; 2014, 2017: 175-296.

# Get in Touch:

---

RAQUELLE.AKAVAN@GMAIL.COM

(516) 732-5821



Instagram



LinkedIn

