Leader in the News

Dr. Drew Gilpin Faust is an American historian and the first female president of Harvard University. She was born and raised in Clarke County, Virginia and earned her B.A. from Bryn Mawr College A.M. and her Ph.D. in American Civilization at the University of Pennsylvania in 1975.

Faust says she grew up with certain expectations. She has often spoken of her “continued confrontations” with her mother “about the requirements of what she usually called femininity.” In fact, her mother often told her that “It’s a man’s world, sweetie, and the sooner you learn that the better off you’ll be.”

Faust, however, rejected that idea and instead left home at an early age to be educated at an all girls preparatory school in Massachusetts. She took it upon herself to make more of herself and to achieve the high standards of life that she had imagined.

“I’ve always done more than I ever thought I would. Becoming a professor--I never would have imagined that. Writing books--I never would have imagined that. Getting a Ph.D.--I’m not sure I would have even imagined that. I’ve lived my life a step at a time. Things sort of happened.”

Through all the obstacles Faust has faced, from her own mother to societal expectations, she never gave up on herself.

What’s her secret? Envisioning yourself doing what you want.

“I was raised to be a rich man’s wife. Instead I am now a president of one of the most powerful universities in the world.”

For her it’s all about having confidence and faith in yourself.
I Believe I Can Fly

R. Kelly

I used to think that I could not go on
And life was nothing but an awful song
But now I know the meaning of true love
I’m leaning on the everlasting arms

If I can see it, then I can do it
If I just believe it, there’s nothing to it

I believe I can fly
I believe I can touch the sky
I think about it every night and day
Spread my wings and fly away
I believe I can soar
I see me running through that open door
I believe I can fly
I believe I can fly
I believe I can fly

See I was on the verge of breaking down
Sometimes silence can seem so loud
There are miracles in life I must achieve
But first I know it starts inside of me, oh

Leadership Challenge

Leadership starts with yourself! You can’t expect others to follow you if you don’t first act as an accomplished, confident and worthy leader.

To have the most positive impact on those around you, take some time to get in touch with yourself. Try to allot at least 15 minutes a day to slow down and really think about yourself and what you want. Ask yourself these questions every once in awhile to see how on track you are with your own, interpersonal leadership.

1. What do I want out of today, this week, semester, year?

2. Would I trust myself?

3. How can I think differently or more creatively to get those around me more excited about the task at hand? Keep in mind that people work differently and by trying a new approach you may get better feedback. As lame as it sounds, where there is a will... there is a way!

“Goals are not only absolutely necessary to motivate us. They are essential to really keep us alive.”
- Robert H. Schuller

“Goals are discovered, not made.”
- Richard J. Foster

“Nothing happens unless first we dream.”
- Carl Sandburg