

What Is Grade-A Leadership?

Deshauna Barber



Adaptiveness, balance and accountability are the keys to becoming a “Grade A” leader, said Deshauna Barber. Deshauna, who is a U.S. Army Reserve Captain and was the first active duty member to earn the Miss USA crown (2016), challenged the audience to consider the grade they’d receive if someone evaluated their current progress as leaders.

Takeaways

To earn an A, she told the Leadercast Women 2019 audience to become a more adaptive leader who recognizes that the same leadership style may not fit every position. Here are five tips to earning an A:

1. **Observe the current state of your team.**
2. **Request feedback.**
3. **Listen more than you speak.**
4. **Identify and eliminate toxic conduct.**
5. **Create a governing philosophy.**

Deshauna also talked about how balance helps make a better leader. “While there’s nothing we can do about the weight of life, **we do get to decide how to carry it,**” she said. Leaders must know their limits, create a plan to balance their energy equally and set boundaries.

Lastly, Deshauna stated that grade-A leadership requires **accountability** to your team. “Sometimes it’s not about knowing what they’re doing. You need to know how they’re doing,” she said. Checking on your team demonstrates compassion and will strengthen the team and improve accountability.