

March President's Update

Thank you so much for allowing me to represent the Alpha Rho Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi (ESP) at the Joint Council of Extension Professionals (JCEP) Conference in February. Much of the conference focused on different leadership styles and methods. Our keynote speaker, Daniel P. Gallagher, spoke on the self-aware leader.

The self-aware leadership principles work well with middle managers which is where many of us as extension professionals are. A middle manager is characterized as someone who is supervising others and reports to a higher level. Middle managers are not responsible for doing all the work themselves. They are responsible for getting others to do the work.

Whether you are a district/county director or a 4-H agent working with a group of volunteers or an agent working with a PDC, all of these fall into the role of a middle manager as we report to a higher level. Being aware of your own skills and those you need to improve upon will help you to become a better manager.

Ask yourself, are you task oriented or people oriented? Do you like to do things yourself or are you comfortable with delegating and allowing others to do the job? Do you listen to the suggestions of others or reply solely on your own idea? A self-aware leader balances social and functional intelligence to create a welcoming environment.

As I reflect back on what I heard during this session, I realize I have a long way to go to becoming a strong self-aware leader. To help in improving my skills, I purchased Mr. Gallagher's book, "The Self-Aware Leader, A Proven Model for Reinventing Yourself". If you are interested in the topic I would encourage you to take a look at this book.

On another note, the endowment committee has changed the dates that certain scholarship applications are due. May 1 is the deadline for the Jim Lindquist Administrative Leadership Scholarship and Endowment Fund Professional Development Grants. This would include all travel requests. August 15 is the deadline for the Program Innovation grants provided through the endowment fund.

And finally, good luck to all our Alpha Rho award winners who submitted their applications for national consideration. We had 8 eligible applicants and all 8 submitted their applications to national.