

The Center for Creative Leadership Handbook of Coaching in Organizations

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The Center for Creative Leadership Handbook of Coaching in Organizations

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Editors



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First Edition

Dedicated to the human resource professionals who invest their hearts, minds, and hands for the betterment of their workplaces

Foreword

Few other elements of corporate preparation for global leaders have more impact than coaching. And few organizations have had more impact in shaping the thinking about the development of leaders within the coaching context than the Center for Creative Leadership.

Research tells us that coaching, when done well for the right reasons by talented coaches with clear goals and within strong ethical guidelines, works. Leaders tell us that one of the ways to develop what they find most effective is through coaching. Organizations can point to the positive effects of coaching for not only the leaders being coached but also their teams and the fabric of their very culture.

Recently I had the great privilege of researching what great companies know about consistently developing effective leaders who are different from the rest. The report, *DNA of Leaders: Leadership Development Secrets*, profiled the leadership development programs and philosophies at Accenture, L'Oreal, Shell, Siemens, American Express, the Coca-Cola Company, Wipro, Unilever, Intel, IBM, McDonald's, Proctor & Gamble, Hewlett Packard, General Mills, Caterpillar, Cardinal Health, and BASF. They had much in common: a clear understanding of what leaders need to be and do at their organization; linkage to the organization's values; active involvement and support from senior leaders; and the strong use of analytics and the continual assessment not only of development programs' effectiveness but also the impact on business results. What they also had in common was a commitment to supporting leaders on a personal basis through structured coaching programs, a key element of their overall structure. As part of that same study, we

asked business leaders what leadership development experiences they believed had the greatest impact. Their top six choices were mentoring, action learning, rotational programs, international assignments, executive coaching, and informal feedback. Clearly coaching is top of mind; action learning, rotational programs, and international assignments all require an element of coaching and feedback to be truly successful.

Practitioners will find in this book the distilled wisdom that comes only from having built or witnessed hundreds of successful coaching programs and thousands of individuals who have been transformed by them. This highly accessible and comprehensive handbook is logically framed around three core elements: the human resource leader as a coach, building a coaching culture, and specific coaching applications. More than a blueprint to simply replicate a model, it is a launching pad for what could be.

The CCL Handbook of Coaching in Organizations has much to offer human capital executives charged with creating the environment in which leaders are successfully forged in a crucible of development and then sent forth into the complex, ever changing, unpredictable world that awaits them. There is probably no more critical task than to build the leaders every organization needs to drive its success; coaching is a powerful tool to accomplish that task. I know that you will find this new work to be of great value.

Rebecca L. Ray

Executive Vice President, The Conference Board

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Introduction

When people think about coaching in leadership, they often assume the reference is to executive coaching: one professional coach working with one leader. This may be a consequence of the fact that the profession of coaching has driven the growth of the field. We believe it is valuable to think more broadly about coaching and recognize that the applications of this kind of interaction should not be limited to executive coaching. At the Center for Creative Leadership, we look at coaching as a certain kind of relationship, worked out in certain kinds of conversations, that has value far beyond what takes place between professional coach and the person being coached. In fact, the most powerful coaching conversations with the greatest impact on leadership challenges are often the ones that take place in the hallways, cafeterias, offices, and other organizational workspaces. These conversations are conducted by thoughtful leaders and managers who recognize the importance of coaching relationships for the advancement of leadership capability at all levels in the course of the organization's everyday work.

For our purposes, coaching is a helping relationship with a developmental focus played out in conversations that stimulate the person or group being coached to greater awareness, deeper and broader thought, and wiser decisions and actions. The conversations are developmental because they always have in mind the improvement of the person's perceiving, thinking, and reflecting, as well as the solution to the concern at hand. It is a helping relationship because the benefit is clearly focused on the value to the person being coached and her leadership responsibilities. Coaching conversations are an important means by which

experiences are turned into learning, and nearly anyone can conduct them. Friends, mentors, coaches, teachers, and leaders of every stripe have greater impact on the thinking, feeling, and behavior of others when they listen carefully, respond thoughtfully, and are careful to resist imposing their own solutions. We can all coach. We can all create openness to new thinking and action.

At the core of this book is an idea: human resource leaders can create the conditions that permit the growth of a developmental culture and of climates that encourage individual and organizational learning. They can do this through implementing coaching systems based on lessons derived from organizations all over the world, in many sectors and industries, of all sizes. Coaching, mentoring, and other developmental activities are only part of the total work of human resource professionals; they are important to the health of the organization and the growth of those being coached, and they are an essential element of organizational change. Furthermore, we believe that human resource professionals are ideally located within the organization to activate a variety of resources leading to leadership growth.

CCL research has consistently shown the consequences of trying to execute brilliant business strategies without the benefit of adequate leadership. The realization that implementation of business strategy requires a corresponding leadership strategy has shaped CCL's research and portfolio for over a decade. However, this book recognizes that it is nearly impossible for any internal HR professional to know all that is necessary to implement practical and effective coaching systems. We have gathered in this book experience and research from all over the globe in one place for busy HR and organizational development leaders who recognize the need for coaching

as one piece of a comprehensive orientation toward development.

This book focuses on the opportunities and challenges of the professionals working within an organization responsible for doing coaching or implementing coaching systems. The key word is *system*, because we have come to appreciate an ecological perspective, which always seeks to broaden the attention beyond the current definition of a given situation. For instance, an HR leader may be called on to coach an executive who is in danger of derailing. In years past, the leader might have been content to counsel the individual, warn him of his potential fate, and consult with him until he either changes or flames out. An ecological perspective changes that approach and helps HR leaders recognize that they sit at the crossroads of a rich set of resources and are likely to be much more effective by activating the help of others, all for the benefit of the executive and the organization. HR leaders who think in terms of the system will help derailing executives enlist the involvement and support of many others.

Although it has become popular to seek alternative terms to describe the HR function within organizations (Google's People Operations, for instance), we consistently refer in this book to the functional group as human resources. Because of the variety of foci within HR departments or groups who are responsible for organizational development, learning and development, training and development, and the like, we have not imposed any particular constraints on the chapter authors, who come from a broad range of organizations and research and practice settings. You may see terms such as *human resource business partner*, *human resource coach*, or, as in the case of this Introduction, *human resource leader*. The common element in all of these labels is that they signify

people in HR roles who are responsible for developing their organization's leaders.

This book originated in the persistent cries for help of clients and colleagues all over the world who have faced the challenges of implementing coaching systems or doing coaching. Human resource professionals have unique multiple roles in that they are often expected to coach and simultaneously create and manage systems of coaching. As we reviewed the literature on coaching and its applications within organizational life, the need for guidance based on CCL's global experience with organizations of every kind became clear. In particular, the multiple, competing roles of human resource leaders demonstrated the need for a book that addressed the requirement to be both a coach and manager of coaches and coaching.

This book has three parts.

Part 1 focuses on the creation and management of coaching . Most organization programss have come to realize that coaching activities have to include mentoring and peer coaching as well as developing the coaching competence of managers. The HR professionals responsible for advising senior leadership on development strategies and responsive talent management to achieve business results have told us they need resources to educate others on the conditions and activities important for successful initiatives. What are the best ways to begin or expand programs that can equip leaders for meeting rapidly changing market conditions? How can coaching address dynamic cultural changes that accompany new generations or the internationalization of the workforce? We share the lessons of our experiences with organizations in over 130 countries and with over thirty thousand leaders a year to put at your disposal in chapters 1 to 5 the best practices for creating and managing comprehensive leadership