



## **Futuristic Leadership: Vision, Risk & Change**

El Tropicano Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas

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"Everyone wants to feel that he counts for something and is important to someone. Invariably, people will give their love, respect, and attention to the person who fills that need."

John C. Maxwell, Leadership 101

### **Empowerment**

*Real leadership is being the person others will gladly and confidently follow*

### **CEPA 2013 Conference**

Landing the top jobs today is hard! Today, most students can't find a job and start their careers after graduating. Worse yet, people have somewhat resigned themselves to these bleak times. Can young people afford to rest on their laurels and think that just because they earned a degree they will be appointed to the highest post? What can they do to better prepare themselves for the tough, top profession? Simple! They must equip themselves with the skills to win the well-paying career. It is time for young people to invest in themselves. Ask yourself, what advantage can I create for myself? What kind of creativity, inspiration, and imagination can I generate to position myself for the future?



Vidya Ananthanarayanan, doctoral student at the University of the Incarnate Word and conference site director, is a visionary who understands the attributes of developing her entrepreneurial leadership skills. She is aware that there is a need to change and find a different way for future leaders to be creative to meet the challenges of today.

CEPA is preparing leaders, like Vidya, with bold and adventurous ideas who (a) possess the passion to take vision to implementation and (b) who can initiate a dynamic interchange of ideas with other professionals dedicated to a common mission and philosophy. She promotes the idea that emerging leaders measure themselves by the vision of the future.

At CEPA 2013, Vidya is gaining the groundbreaking experience to complement her B.A in Economics from Madras University (India), a M.S. in Digital Media from Abilene Christian University, and her doctoral studies at the University of the Incarnate Word.



Laurie Turner, doctoral student at A&M University-Corpus Christi, is another entrepreneurial leader. In addition to serving as site co-director, she is involved with her community and advocating for local school districts and communities. She is a busy mother of three, teaches full-time, and was a candidate for the Texas State Board of Education. She holds a B.A. from Portland University and a MPA in Public Policy from Washington State University. Her career exemplifies and underscores the ideal of *Futuristic Leadership: Vision, Risk and Change*

## Are your students connected?



Dr. Kristin Kew, New Mexico State University, is making it possible for emerging thinkers at her campus to get connected. She knows the importance harvesting the knowledge of her graduate

students, the need to build a strong brand by demonstrating how relevant her graduates are and how different they are from others. Creativity, innovation and networking have become the basic price for admission into the future.

One of Dr. Kew's graduate students, Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, is learning the importance of networking and that the top posts will go to pro-active entrepreneurs. Elizabeth is currently working in Korea but plans to return to the U.S. Dr. Kew recommended her to the CEPA program and she is already in contact with a number of universities. "I have to admit when I woke up this morning, I didn't expect this load of emails with promising replies," stated Elizabeth. I am so excited to network with you all," she tells the CEPA leadership team.

## Are your students wired?

In Thomas Friedman's book entitled *That Used to Be Us*, he describes an outlook on today's need to develop leadership differently. "A leader's responsibility is to visualize, understand, decide, and direct," writes Friedman. "And yet we spend the vast majority of our time providing the knowledge skills and attributes ... to decide and direct and almost no time on how to visualize and understand." Friedman believes that we must "foster creativity, and leverage technology to create a different learning model." Hence, educational institutions need to get students to think and to find their own path to independence, to discover their individual interest. Nurturing creativity among students

by getting them to think about how to promote their own careers is urgently needed to unlock their potential for creativity. Students need the basics of entrepreneurship to develop their own jobs for the future.

## CEPA Consortium



The flagship universities co-hosting this year's event are Texas A&M University-San Antonio and Our Lady of the Lake University. Texas A&M University-Commerce joined in 2012. The Memorandum of

Understanding between these campuses and CEPA forms the CEPA Leadership Consortium and establishes an important link between major institutions of higher learning and a Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation.

The Consortium serves as a model for educating and preparing our next generation of leaders. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding will be a

highlight of the conference. The ceremony will be held on Friday, October 18, 2013, 7:00 P.M. during the dinner session. This will be an enjoyable evening where students, leaders and visionaries will assemble, celebrate learning, and re-connect themselves to scholarship excellence.



Dr. Maria Hernandez Ferrier, President of TAMU-SA and Sister Jane Ann Slater, President, OLLU, invite you to join CEPA 2013 in San Antonio. Imagine the possibilities when established and future leaders gather together to embrace vision, risk and change and take advantage of this entire experience!

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