



# TAKING THE LEAD ...



**Meet Trevor Garner, Leadership Premier 2015**  
Chief Financial Officer, IDEA Crew & LHC Board Chair

***How do you define leadership?***

Having a passion for what you are doing and inspiring that passion in others. Always thinking about how to make the people around you, your company, organization and community thrive. Leadership is equal parts listening and leading (took me a little bit of time to understand that). Leadership is leaving things better than how you found them.

***What leader inspires you and why?***

Abraham Lincoln. I just finished a book Lincoln on Leadership so, it's in my head. What stands out about Lincoln was his belief in doing what was right, not just popular or party driven. Two things stood out for me in that book regarding leadership skills. First, and remember security was a little different in those days, Lincoln rarely held meetings in the White House opting to go to the office or to the home of who he was meeting with instead. Second, in the Civil War, if a General gallantly tried but failed in a battle, Abe always took the blame. If a General succeeded in battle, Abe gave them full credit. If a General didn't try, Abe fired them. An excellent life lesson for leaders.

***What is your favorite thing about being a leader?***

I love coaching and developing talent. Seeing people grow and develop themselves personally and professionally, and effectively turning their job or role into a successful career. A close second is the wonderful variety of different things you have to do each day to be a successful leader.

***What is your favorite leadership quote?***

"The righter you do a wrong thing, the 'wronger' you get."

- Russ Ackoff

***In your opinion, what is the best trait a successful leader should have?***

A leader must be smart, thoughtful, flexible and driven – flexibility being most crucial in my mind. If you get stuck in your way of thinking, your company or organization may lose ground. Always be validation of your strategies and assumptions.

***What leadership advice would you give a new emerging professional?***

Lead by example and don't forget how you got the leadership role in the first place. Never ask your team of people to do something you wouldn't readily do yourself; it is easier to inspire and achieve success.

***What are your go-to hobbies or pastimes?***

It's a toss up - in my free time you will find me on a golf course or my boat.

***What is your most memorable vacation?***

Every year, I love spending time on Canandaigua Lake with my whole family; however, my favorite trip of all time was my youngest daughter, Grace, and I going to visit my oldest daughter, Katie in Rome. It was the most magical 10 days of my life. To spend time with the two people on earth I love more than anyone, experience the history, food and culture was amazing. I realized how lucky and fortunate I have been in life and what amazing young women they have become ... magical!

***What would you say to someone considering getting involved with LHC?***

Get involved with LHC if you want to meet and connect with some of the most brilliant people in the county—people who tirelessly work everyday to make Howard County a wonderful place to work and live. Strongly consider applying immediately for Leadership Premier.