



TAKING THE LEAD ...



Meet Chimaobi "Chima" Chijioke, Leadership Premier 2016

Chima has been a LHC Board Member since 2016 and has continually served on LHC's Sponsorship & Development Committee.

How do you define leadership?

My perspective of Leadership is someone who develops people and drives performance. Leaders create in people a desire to want to do well and make a difference and, in the process, guides them through the experience.

What leader inspires you and why?

Nelson Mandela is one Leader who inspired, and continues to inspire me. As President of South Africa, he demonstrated remarkable leadership qualities, such as advocating for peace, being a powerful presence that disarmed those that did not agree with him with his smile and, someone who maintained a high-level of forgiveness, positive thinking, and had the ability to see the big picture, while simultaneously focusing on goals and missions beyond himself.

What is your favorite thing about being a leader?

The ability to develop future leaders to sustain the work current leaders are doing.

What is your favorite leadership quote?

"The pessimist complains about the wind. The optimist expects it to change. The leader adjusts the sails."
- John Maxwell

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

Being able to effectively communicate.

What leadership advice would you give a new emerging professional?

Stay humble and remember the true reason and essence of leadership. You may lose your way every now and then, but always come back to why you became a leader.

What are your go-to hobbies or pastimes?

Taking long walks on the many trails in Howard County.

What is your most memorable vacation?

Summer vacation with the entire family, visiting Hilton Head, South Carolina.

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

LHC created in me a desire to give back and play my part in sustaining this beautiful place we all love and call home. I value LHC because it defines what leadership is and the leadership roles you can play. It helps you identify where you are most comfortable and where you can make the most impact.

If you were not in your current role, what would your dream career/job be and why?

General Manager of a Ritz Carlton Hotel. I love the hospitality industry and the hotels are located in the most exotic places in the world.