

NOBLE LEADER EDITORIAL

Kori Stephens

FOUNDER, LEAD STRATEGIST, COACH

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF AND YOUR EXPERIENCE IN A LEADERSHIP ROLE?

I stepped into my first official leadership role about one month prior to my first child coming earthside. I say 'official' because I like to think of leadership as something that traverses over positions, titles, and authority, and in that sense, I have held many leadership roles throughout my life - including running my own coloring book business when I was 6. This positional shift into leadership in 2011, is what catapulted me into exponential growth around how to lead from my own center - my authentic self and to truly be of service to my people and our work.



WAS THERE A TIME THAT A LEADER DID SOMETHING “NOBLE” TO SUPPORT YOU? IF SO, WHAT WAS IT AND HOW DID IT IMPACT YOU?

The best thing someone has ever done for me was to believe in me and to allow space for strategic failures. I started working in the field of child abuse when I was 22, fresh out of college, and my leader at the time, Jane, would send me into rooms with professionals who had been doing this work for 20-30 years to facilitate team development and strategy sessions. I was incredibly intimidated and honored to be sharing a space with them. She encouraged me to embrace the fear of holding space, gave solid nonjudgmental feedback, and always dared me to dream and experiment.





WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES A “NOBLE LEADER”?

A Noble Leader is someone who centers the voices of those they serve, both within and outside of their organization and/or team. They hold tremendous integrity between their beliefs and actions and are not afraid to be vulnerable in their communication and apologize when they've made a misstep. A Noble Leader is someone who inspires others through curiosity, continued growth, and modeling the hard things. They are solid in the core of who they are, hold caring boundaries, and emanate deep compassion.

IF YOU COULD GIVE A LEADER A TOOL OR STRATEGY THAT'S HELPED YOU ALONG THE WAY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

If there is one thing I could give a leader that has helped me along the way it would be to stay in curiosity. This means asking questions, showing a genuine interest in the ideas and perspectives of others, being intentional about the design of gatherings so that curiosity can thrive and solving the right problem (not just the first one that presents its self).



WHERE CAN READERS FIND YOU?

Website: www.resonancerising.org
Instagram: @resonance.rising
LinkedIn: @kori-stephens
Facebook: /resonancerisingconsulting.com