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# Leadership Inspiration: “Wherever You Are, Be All There”

By Brian Hinkle

*Editor’s Note: In the Leadership & Development Section’s Leadership Inspiration Contest, entrants were asked to tell us what inspired them to be better actuarial leaders. Here is the winner from the “Leadership Quote” category.*

A quote that inspires me is, “Wherever you are, be all there,” by Jim Elliot. It doesn’t necessarily seem like a leadership quote, but I think that’s what makes it good. Oftentimes, when we think of leadership, we think of tasks and strategies to implement or boxes to check that will make us good leaders. I think the best leaders are the people who take the time to be present in the moment: people who are not thinking of the next thing all the time, but give their best in the moment.

No one wants to follow someone whom they believe doesn’t know them, respect them, relate to them, or inspire them. I think that one of the main causes for these issues in aspiring leaders is they are *too* aspiring. Aspiring leaders often have their eyes to the future, to a bigger role, a more exciting project, and fail to lead where they are.

“Wherever you are, be all there” reminds me that there is a lot happening in life, right now, that I don’t want to miss. The people I work with and lead have important issues, projects that matter right now, life events they care about today, and they need me to be present for them. Being all there builds trust and comradery; it allows a leader to see current needs and adapt accordingly; and it inspires others to follow. The future positions, bigger projects and more responsibility may or may not come, but you have today, so make the most of it. ■



Brian Hinkle, FSA, is an associate actuary at Securian Financial Group in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he primarily works on pricing retirement plans. He can be reached at [brian.hinkle@securian.com](mailto:brian.hinkle@securian.com).

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