In the business environment one thing that is always certain is change. This certainty of change is what directs and motivates business owners to improve procedures and processes, to expand into new areas and to keep current with market trends and technology. For businesses to recognize and relate to these ongoing changes it is imperative that owners and their management staff constantly (both physically and mentally) monitor employees, expenditures, performance, production, sales and overall health of the business.

This owner procedure is commonly known as leadership. The first question you need to ask yourself, “Are you ready to lead your company to success?” If you feel you are ready to lead, the next step is to determine if you have key characteristics that will allow you to excel in a leadership role. In this article we wish to highlight several traits that as a business owner/manager you may want to make part of your leadership capabilities.

Over the past several years, one of the most important contributions made to the field of business has been the identification of several key traits of successful leaders. Successful leaders today are visionary, providing direction and exhibiting ethics and work in a continuing effort to build integrity in their business.

Based on this information we’ve listed some of the traits of being an effective leader in the following paragraphs:

Charisma: Leaders are perceived as being larger than life. Leaders having charisma are able to develop strong emotions in their employees by defining a vision which unites and captivates them. Using this vision, leaders motivate employees to strive for continuing success of achieving a personal goal by tying their goal to personal growth and values.

Competitive: Leaders are very often competitive, decisive and usually enjoy the challenge and conquering obstacles. In addition leaders are assertive in their style of thinking and in their attitude when dealing with others.

Conscientiousness: Leaders are often consumed by a sense of accomplishment and to be very exacting in character. They normally have a very high degree of excellence and an internal desire to always do their best. Leaders also have a personal resolve of order, preparation and are self-disciplined.
Emotional stability: To be a good leader, a person must be able to tolerate frustration and stress. Overall, leaders must be logical, mature, and well-adjusted in their position to properly deal with anything they may encounter.

Empathy: Being able to put yourself in the other person's shoes is a personal trait of leaders. Without empathy there is no avenue to build trust and without trust, a leader never will be able to get the best performance from his employees.

Enthusiastic: In many cases leaders are usually viewed as active, expressive and untiring. In addition most leaders exhibit an air of confidence and are optimistic about their business endeavors. Overall, leaders are normally alert to what’s happening around them, quick to evaluate situations and tend to be uninhibited.

Self-assurance: Self-confidence and resiliency is another common traits that leaders exhibit. Leaders have a tendency to be free of guilt, have little need for peer approval and seldom second guess their actions or decisions. A strong leader is normally not affected by her or his prior failures or decision errors.

This is a brief overview of some of the traits of being a leader. Leaders are rarely (if ever) born. Circumstances and persistence are major components in the developmental process of any leader, so if your goal is to make your business growth and be successful, as the owner you need to become a leader. Take heed to what it means to be a leader and work on developing those areas of your personality until you feel proficient in making decisions, working with people and inspire your employees also grow and achieve excellence.

This article is not to make you a leader, but to provide some insight to efforts and traits that are necessary to become a good leader. As a current owner if you believe you have the basic traits of a leader, utilize them and let others know that anyone can do anything they set their mind to.

APAC encourages everyone who reads this article to take and use it to assist them in running their business by learning to become a leader.