



A. David May, Jr., D.D.S.

What experiences have you had, as a dentist, that have impacted your leadership style?

I had four "older" dentists who were great mentors for me and they encouraged me early on in my dental career to take a stand and voice my opinions and concerns about things that impacted dentists and the delivery of dental care.

What does "leadership" mean to you?

A good leader listens to all sides, evaluates and discusses all options, decides on the best course of action, then sets in motion a plan to accomplish the goals of the group.

Who inspires you?

The young dentists of today are a great inspiration for me. As I talk with young dentists in leadership roles in organized dentistry, I find, for the most part, that they want to give input and direction to the future of dentistry. They realize that non-dentists are very interested in controlling the profession, and they see the importance of continuing the efforts of past dental leaders to ensure that it is the dentist who remains in control of the delivery of dental care.



Dr. David M. Nelson is pictured with his niece.

David M. Nelson, D.D.S.

Describe your first leadership role in life:

Camp counselor, Moncrief Mountain Ranch (MMR), Lake City, Colorado. I was a counselor and later assistant camp director for MMR. The camp was a high mountain adventure camp for children with chronic illnesses such as cancer, kidney disease, Lupus, and asthma.

What experiences have you had, as a dentist, that have impacted your leadership style?

Overseeing staff of a small dental practice and a large dental practice is always a challenge that is a source of learning every day. Just the leadership of a dentist/patient relationship, where you are the head of the team to restore and maintain a patient's dental health, can be overwhelming at times and very rewarding at others.

What does "leadership" mean to you?

Leadership means having showing the confidence to guide even when you may be encountering uncharted waters. You must be confident in yourself to guide others and figure out what you may not know to achieve the desired goal.

Who inspires you?

John Glenn: A wonderful leader who definitely went where no man has gone before and did not know what to expect. He was always a level headed problem solver and is the epitome of a good man in my eyes. He was an Eagle Scout, a U.S. Senator, and returned to space as a senior citizen. Story Musgrave: NASA Astronaut and M.D.. What an unbelievable scholar and leader as an astronaut. My Dad: retired football and track coach, and biology teacher. Not your typical "coach teacher" at all ... biology was his passion not just something he had to do. I cannot count the number of his past students who have told me how my dad changed their life. He taught me discipline, responsibility, and most of all love. He taught me, as a leader, you may have to correct or discipline at times, but afterwards put your arm around that person and let them know they are still loved and important.