Foreword

The modern organization is the “digital enterprise.” The pervasive nature of information and communications technologies has changed the way organizations are structured, the way they operate, and the way they are lead. It can now be argued that the most important factor in the success of the digital enterprise is leadership. Effective leadership of the digital enterprise means recognizing the potential of these technologies and taking advantage of the opportunities that they present to move the enterprise forward. This book is the first book that I am aware of that provides a comprehensive look at leadership in the digital enterprise.

In the digital enterprise almost everyone uses digital technology. From the factory floor or out in the field, to the office setting, to the executive suite, people are connected, they share knowledge, and they work closely together. This means that the nature of leadership changes and new forms and roles in coordinating work and leading people emerge. I like to think of these new forms of leadership as “digital leadership.”

Digital leadership exercises leadership in the context of varying degrees of technology. This leadership directs, facilitates and coordinates digital work and knowledge processes in the organization. Digital leadership requires not only an appreciation of the potential of information and communications technologies to aid in leadership of an enterprise, but also recognition of the limitations of these technologies and how they are used in projecting leadership across the organization.

This book presents the work of many contributors from around the globe. The authors have taken a broad and diverse look at digital leadership in the modern organization. What is clear from these contributions is that this is an exciting emerging area of research and practice.

Enjoy!

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