

Top 20 Leadership Skills and Competencies Needed to Lead a Community College Today

**As reported by attendees of
the 2006 CCLDI Summer Leadership Academy**

In order from most highly rated to least highly rated by number of responses:

1. Communication skills: Ability to listen, speak clearly, and present information in a compelling way.
2. People or “connective” skills: Ability and willingness to develop and nurture relationships.
3. Integrity and credibility within the campus and the community.
4. Ability to develop and implement a collaborative vision.
5. Collaboration with individuals on campus as well as in the community; ability to be a team player and team builder.
6. Candor and honesty.
7. Motivational skills and passion for the work.
8. Knowledge of all aspects of the position and competence on the job, including an understanding of how best to use campus resources.
9. Big-picture thinking, including the use of data to drive decisions.
10. Courage and willingness to take risks.
11. Openness to new ideas.
12. Creativity in terms of ideas and execution of vision.
13. Strong decision-making skills and confidence in one’s decisions.
14. Ability to delegate and empower others to make decisions.
15. Devotion to students and student success as the core of leadership decisions.
16. Change management and conflict resolution skills.
17. Authenticity and self-knowledge.
18. Visibility on campus and within the community, heavy interaction with faculty.
19. Awareness of and dedication to community needs and partnerships.
20. Empathy and emotional intelligence.