



turning managers into leaders

Merge's Monthly Mega Minute – July 2007

Welcome to **Merge's Monthly Mega-Minute** - a bite-sized, yet substantial and practical, nugget of information that you can use immediately to enhance your professional and personal success.

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Merge Gupta-Sunderji helps turn managers into leaders. Through engaging keynotes and facilitated workshops, she gives people specific and practical tools to achieve leadership and communication success. Contact her at www.mergespeaks.com or 403-605-4756

Choose to add more keys to your key ring

Last month, my 17-year old niece graduated from high school. She's been surrounded most of her life by over-achievers, so much to the delight of all those who love her, she plans to continue her education and is already enrolled at university for this fall. But our obvious satisfaction about her decision to go to college got me thinking about *why* everyone was so pleased. Was it for reasons of practicality, or pride, or something else? It took a remark made by the keynote speaker at her convocation ceremony to give me the real answer.

Education, whether formal or informal, whether university or trade school, whether in the classroom or on the job, is like a collection of keys on a key ring. The more you seek to educate yourself, the more keys you add to your key ring. These keys come in all shapes and sizes -- technical training; the professional skills of communication and leadership; the personal qualities of determination, patience, and tenacity; the tolerance that develops from travel to different geographies and cultures; the list is endless. But what these keys really do is open doors, both ones that you might encounter today, as well as the hundreds of doors you will face during your lifetime. The more keys you have on your key ring, the more choices you will have and the more successful you will be in opening those doors and continuing your journey.

Since my niece is still young, most of her keys will come from a formal education. But what if you are older and have not set foot in a classroom for a while? Do you have to go back to school to get more keys? Not necessarily. You can find keys right within your workplace -- either through formal courses in technical and "soft" skills, or informally through on-the-job learning opportunities. The keys are all around you, but in order to take advantage of them,

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you have to look for them, pick them up *and* put them on your key ring. Choose to add more keys to your key ring – consciously seek out opportunities to expand your education!