Leadership, Trustworthiness, and Ethical Stewardship

Caldwell C., Hayes L.A., Long D.T.

Terry College of Business, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, United States; University of Houston - Victoria, Sugar Land, TX, United States; Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Viet Nam

Abstract: Leaders in today's world face the challenge of earning the trust and commitment of organizational members if they expect to guide their companies to success in a highly competitive global context. In this article, we present empirical results indicating that when leadership behaviors are perceived as trustworthy through the observer's mediating lens, trust increases and leaders are more likely to be viewed as ethical stewards who honor a higher level of duties. This article contributes to the growing body of literature about the importance of ethical stewardship in the trust relationship. © 2010 Springer Science+Business Media B.V.
Author Keywords: ethical stewardship; leadership; mediating lens; trust; trustworthiness

Authors with affiliations:

• Caldwell, C., Terry College of Business, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, United States

• Hayes, L.A., University of Houston - Victoria, Sugar Land, TX, United States

• Long, D.T., Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Viet Nam

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