

IN HONOR OF DAVID GETCHES

_Dayna Bowen Matthew

As I searched for a word or phrase that allowed me to capture what I want to communicate about David in the short time I have, I settled on the term, “Transformational Leader.” David Getches is the epitome of the term “transformational leadership” – and for the three minutes I have to speak, I want to honor what has been transformative about my dean, my mentor and my friend, David.

To Transform” means to “change in form, appearance, condition, character, structure.” Of course, if we want a physical picture of David’s transformative leadership, all we have to do is turn our eyes for a moment to look at the Fleming Law Building – that was where David began his work in 2003, and then lift your gaze to the beautiful edifice we know as the Wolf Law Building. And you will have a picture of the METAMORPHOSIS that has taken place over these past 8 years under David’s transformative leadership.

Alternatively, take a look at the data – and the numbers will bear out the transformation of which I speak:

- Endowment - In 2003 our endowment was \$26 million – today, \$41 million
- Student Scholarships - In 2003, our law school granted students a total of \$561,400 in total scholarships, fellowships, and grants to attend this great state’s public law school. During David’s last year as Dean we granted over \$3 million in scholarships, fellowships, and grants to make sure all qualified students would have access to a legal education at this Law School.
 - That is a remarkable 436% increase in scholarship funding over 8 years!!

- Bar Passage Rate – In July 2003 we were happy to report that 88% of our graduates passed the Colorado Bar Examination as first time takers. Well in July 2010 that number had improved to 95% of Colorado Law grads that passed the bar as first time takers!
- Diversity – In 2003, approximately 17% of our overall student body were diverse students. Last year, 22.2% of the student body members self-identified as American Indian, Asian/Pacific Islander, African American or Hispanic

But if I may – let me close by making this personal – because truly, David’s influence in my life was no less than transformational:

- I came to Colorado to build a health law curriculum. By David’s estimation I guess was done doing that after my first year because that’s when he approached to ask me to become an associate dean.
- When he asked me to be his associate dean in 2004, I like to joke that I didn’t even know what an associate dean was!
- Seven years later, now my colleagues like to joke about the fact that I was the associate dean who never slept! I even once heard a rap song dedicated to this assertion.

The truth was, I could not find a way to fit in sleep, if I was to keep up with David. And he was just the kind of leader, indeed inspirer, who you wanted to keep up with and meet his expectations at every turn. He expected so much of himself, that he inspired me, to do the same.

- Since David went to the gym every morning at 6 AM, I had to be on email by 5 AM if I wanted to catch his undivided attention before the day got underway
- Since David met with donors, students, members of the bench and bar 7 nights out of 7 each week, I had to be ready to talk to him late at

night when he finally got home, if I had anything to report or review from the day before

- And more often than not, no matter how finished a product I thought I had presented to David, he had ideas, suggestions, corrections that sent me back to the drawing board to produce a whole new work – by the next morning

So yes, we worked around the clock together – and we loved it - because that’s what transformational leaders do!

Transformational Leaders cause change in individuals and in social systems

Transformational leaders Motivate people by using energy, enthusiasm, and passion to sell a vision.

David possessed A leadership style that

- GENERATED a vision for EVERY organization he belonged to
- INSPIRED those who followed to meet the challenges that his vision set
- APPEALED to the highest values of honor, integrity, and compassion
- AND AS A RESULT INSPIRED loyalty, excellence, and trust

So when you want to know what I remember about David’s Transformational Leadership,

Don’t look only at the building, or the size of the endowment

Don’t look only to the statistics and data I cited

Instead look at each and every one of our lives – because as I look inside of myself, I see that David Getches touched and transformed every one of us here, for the good, and for forever!

Thank you.