

Read to Lead

This spring, Service Excellence partnered with the Rollins Leadership Academy to offer a pilot Leadership Mastermind Alliance program for employees. The 10-month program is designed to help staff and faculty strengthen their leadership capacities in alignment with the College's service excellence principles. In addition to regular meetings and presentations, participants keep a topical reading schedule. Here, participants share their top takeaways from their favorite books from the program.

1. Becoming a Leader is Becoming Yourself by Russ S. Moxley

"This book focuses on the journey back to our authentic self. Moxley writes, 'courage comes from within; it comes when our leadership is grounded in our true self.' This statement stood out to me because courage to be ourselves is a trait I value greatly in others and strive to have myself." — Jenifer Ruby, Director, International Student & Scholar Services

2. Triggers by Marshall Goldsmith

"Goldsmith highlights the impact of the external environment on our behaviors and also outlines a very detailed self-monitoring approach as a systematic method for adult behavior change. As someone who appreciates clearly outlined systems and processes, I really connected with Goldsmith's approach." — Millie Erichsen, Director of Development, Crummer

3. Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age by Sherry Turkle

"Turkle introduces the reader to the concept of 'Always Elsewhere'—our need to be connected elsewhere, distracted somewhere, and not alone. With 'Always Elsewhere,' we lose the sense of place, time, and the moment by seemingly always wanting to be somewhere else than here in the moment. I wonder what this is costing us in terms of the quality of relationships, lost productivity, and reduced innovation." — Rob Hebel, Assistant Dean, Centers for Leadership Development and Management & Executive Education

4. Superbosses by Sydney Finkelstein

"Finkelstein explores the consistent patterns and personality traits of more than 200 so-called Superbosses like George Lucas, Calvin Klein, and Oprah Winfrey. The qualities that appear to stand out are integrity, creativity, competitiveness, and a willingness to take risks and think outside the box." — Nadine Clarke, Assistant Director and Clinical Coordinator of Counseling, Wellness Center