

LEADERS

*"It always seems impossible until it's done."
— Nelson Mandela*



On the Cover

For well over a decade, the editors of LEADERS have made a concerted and consistent effort to recognize women leaders. In recent years, we have witnessed significant upward acceleration of women into top positions in business, government, philanthropy and virtually all aspects of society. The number of market leading companies run by women has rapidly increased. This will continue with even greater speed as the business world increasingly recognizes the strength that will come from this huge, yet still largely untapped, female talent pool.

In this issue, LEADERS profiles women who, among their many accomplishments, stress the value of diversity and inclusion in creating a successful workplace.

Denise Morrison, President and Chief Executive Officer of Campbell Soup Company, notes "Diversity and inclusion is a very important part of building a high-performance culture." She believes in the "potential of people" and says "if you can unleash that, companies can do amazing things."

Of her current role, Ariel Investment's President Melody Hobson points out, "I knew I had found a place that was special and would allow me to be authentic and unapologetic, and to fulfill my dreams." However, she says we have a long way to go: "I do not understand how this is possible— how people think they can have a 21st century company in the world today without the presence of women."

As Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama, Valerie Jarrett says, "The contribution that women are making is substantial, and we have to create a business climate for the 21st century that has women playing a substantial role."

Linda McMahon states, "It's important that we have a good mix of all expertise in our government, be it from the worlds of business, the arts, medicine or any of the other occupations, because we are creating laws that impact all of us."

Yue-Sai Kan stresses that, "Only if what you can do benefits others, can you really find your calling," and notes that success can be "a woman who chooses to stay at home and raise great children."

Borghese Inc.'s Georgette Mosbacher points out that, "Women allow themselves to be intimidated; they feel like they have to play by the men's rules— that is a mistake. You have to be who you are, and it comes down to believing in yourself and not quitting." ●

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