Introduction – Volume 2, Issue 1

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Servant Leadership: Theory & Practice

It is our mission to continue advancing servant leadership through both qualitative and quantitative research that is evidence-based, drawn from the academic literature and from practitioner experience. Within this issue of Servant Leadership: Theory & Practice, we present one editorial essay, entitled Getting to Know the Elephant: A Call to Advance Servant Leadership through Construct Consensus, Empirical Evidence, and Multilevel Theoretical Development, in which we highlight some of the construct clarity issues with servant leadership as a theory. We provide a literature review concerning the construct at different levels of analysis and suggest a more holistic process approach encompassing several levels of analysis. We offer four articles. Servant Leadership, Followership, and Organizational Citizenship Behaviors in 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Centers: Implications of a National Study, by Lora Reed, focuses on the impact of servant leadership within a first-responder environment and the employee-centered outcome of organizational citizenship behaviors. We also present Implementing Servant Leadership at Cleveland Clinic: A Case Study in Organizational Change, by Joseph M. Patrnchak, a case study that illustrates the value of servant leadership within a healthcare setting. In support of that article illustrating the relationship between leadership and engagement, we feature Exploring the Effect of Transformational Leadership on Nonprofit Leader Engagement, by Robert Freeborough and Kathleen Patterson. We also offer a case study entitled The Servant Leadership of Abraham Lincoln, by Crystal Brown. It concerns servant leader values, focusing on the humility and empathy of Abraham Lincoln.