How do you suggest students foster a spirit of giving in their careers and in their lives?

Find out what you are passionate about. What moves you? Once you figure that out then everything else usually comes naturally. In most cases what you are passionate about is a result of your life experience. Focus your energy in the direction of your passion. Also, as a student or if you are early in your career, your spirit of giving may be your time or your skill and later it may be a combination of your time, skill, and money. When Paul and I started our scholarship at USU we didn’t have a lot of money, we just had an idea; we wanted to help students. We also shared a passion for helping students from day one and understood we had an obligation to give back. As students we were very involved and giving of our time (because that’s all we had as students). That is how we got started with our spirit of giving. Now we continue to volunteer our time and resources to better the lives of students as well as organizations within our community.
What are some guiding principles that anchor your leadership philosophy?

Lead by example and with integrity. Service before Self. As a leader, I like team decisions and I tend to use everyone’s strengths and ideas to move projects forward. I learned early in my career that I could only be the best “me”; I can’t be anyone else. While you can certainly learn from other leaders, you have to take the best traits from others and implement what works best for you based on your personality, skills, and talent.

What does “Dare Mighty Things” mean to you?

Be bold, take chances, and stretch yourself both professionally and personally. Show up at your best and always be willing to take risks. If you always play it safe and do things that are comfortable and participate in things that come easy to you, it becomes difficult to grow and be all that God intends you to be. When you think of the time you were a kid and someone “dared you” to do something, you had to decide if you were going to be courageous. If you decided to accept the “dare”, you would give it your best and see what happened. It’s the same in life and in your career. So, if someone sees something in you and wants to give you a chance to lead or create, believe them and step up, be courageous and lead. Take advantage of opportunities, believe, and “Dare Mighty Things”! It also means you’ll have to roll up your sleeves. One of my favorite quotes is by Thomas Edison — “Most people miss opportunities because it’s dressed in overalls and looks like work.”

“Most people miss opportunities because it’s dressed in overalls and looks like work.”
— Thomas Edison