

A Guide for leaders in higher education: Core concepts, competencies, and tools

Mete Sipahioglu¹ 

Abstract: "The Guide for Leaders in Higher Education: Fundamental Concepts, Competencies, and Tools" thoroughly examines leadership in higher education. This book provides practical guidance for successful leadership within the complexity of the higher education environment, emphasizing the importance of leadership development. Authors offer insights from their own experiences while addressing institutional and strategic challenges. Serving as a compass for leaders through missions, goals, and principles, the book deeply explores leadership concepts and competencies while also providing practical tools and strategies. Additionally, it aims to empower leaders by addressing topics such as communication skills and leadership roles. The book encompasses various approaches and programs related to leadership development models, including real-world applications. Designed for higher education leaders and education professionals, this book presents complex subjects in an understandable manner while offering knowledge and wisdom in an academic style.

Keywords: Higher education leadership, leadership competencies, change management, strategic planning, university cultures.

Yükseköğretimde liderler için bir kılavuz: Temel kavramlar, yetkinlikler ve araçlar

Öz: "Yükseköğretimde Liderler İçin Bir Kılavuz: Temel Kavramlar, Yetkinlikler ve Araçlar" adlı eser, yükseköğretim liderliğini detaylı bir şekilde incelemektedir. Yükseköğretim ortamının karmaşıklığı içinde liderlerin başarılı olması için pratik rehberlik sunan bu kitap, liderlik gelişiminin önemini vurgulamaktadır. Yazarlar, kurumsal ve stratejik zorlukları ele alırken kendi deneyimlerinden edindikleri içgörülerini sunmaktadır. Misyonlar, amaçlar ve ilkeler üzerinden liderlere yönelik bir pusula görevi gören eser, liderlik kavramlarını ve yetkinliklerini derinlemesine incelerken pratik araçlar ve stratejiler de sunmaktadır. Ayrıca, iletişim becerileri ve lider rolleri gibi konuları ele alarak liderleri güçlendirmeyi amaçlamaktadır. Kitap, liderlik gelişim modelleriyle ilgili çeşitli yaklaşımlar ve programlar sunarak gerçek dünya uygulamalarını da içermektedir. Yükseköğretim liderleri ve eğitim profesyonelleri için tasarlanan bu kitap, karmaşık bir konuyu anlaşılır bir şekilde ele alırken akademik bir üslupla bilgi ve bilgelik sunmaktadır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Yükseköğretimde liderlik, liderlik yetkinlikleri, değişim yönetimi, stratejik planlama, üniversite kültürleri.

Kitabın Künyesi

Kitabın adı: Yükseköğretimde Liderler İçin Bir Kılavuz: Temel Kavramlar, Yetkinlikler ve Araçlar
Yazarlar: Brent D. Ruben, Richard De Lisi ve Ralph A. Gigliotti Contributed By Jonathan Scott Holloway

Sayfa sayısı: 492 pp.

eBook ISBN: 9781003442769

Yayınevi: Routledge

Yayın yılı: 3 Temmuz 2023



Başvuru/Submitted

25 Ara / Dec 2023

Kabul/Accepted

24 Nis / Apr 2024

Yayın/Published

21 May / May 2024

<https://doi.org/10.59320/alanyazin.1409903>

Kitap İncelemesi

Book Review

Alanyazın
Eğitim Bilimleri Eleştirel İnceleme
Dergisi
CRES Journal
Critical Reviews in Educational Sciences
2024, 5/1

Sipahioglu, M. (2024). 'A Guide for Leaders in Higher Education: Core Concepts, Competencies, and Tools' book review. *Alanyazın*, 5(1), 115-116.

Okul Yöneticileri Derneği

e-ISSN: 2718-0808

¹ Assoc. Prof., Samsun University, metesipahioglu@gmail.com

The book thoughtfully explores the concept of leadership in higher education, laying a strong foundation for the importance of developing leaders in this complex domain. As it progresses, the narrative shifts its focus to the critical aspect of change an ever-present constant in higher education's dynamic landscape. The authors skillfully guide leaders on not only adapting but championing change within their institutions.

While identifying key strengths, the book doesn't shy away from addressing inherent weaknesses and challenges educational leaders face. It brings attention to the organizational and strategic hurdles, providing nuanced insights into unique opportunities amidst these complexities. Drawing from their rich field experiences, the authors offer actionable guidance rather than dwelling merely on theoretical perspectives.

A standout feature is the book's dedicated exploration of the missions, purposes and guiding principles underpinning colleges and universities. This section serves as a compass, helping leaders navigate contrasting stakeholder perspectives and pressures. The authors pragmatically guide aligning institutional goals with stakeholders' multifaceted needs and expectations.

Significantly, a large portion thoroughly examines leadership concepts and competencies. Here, the authors immerse in the rich tapestry of university cultures, addressing intercultural tensions while unpacking crucial communication skills and roles for leaders. This is not just theoretical—it complements with practical leadership development tools and strategies, empowering leaders with skills to thrive, not just survive.

The book presents a panoramic view of leadership development models, but crucially, does not prescribe a one-size-fits-all solution. Instead, it offers a comprehensive array of approaches, characteristics, and programs tailored for diverse contexts. For example, approaches may include mentorship, experiential learning, traditional training curricula or a blended model. Leader characteristics covered span strong communication, cultural sensitivity, collaboration abilities and more. Programs reviewed encompass formal certification courses, networking events, job-shadowing initiatives and others. This diversity allows personalizing developmental journeys based on unique needs and challenges. Supplementary tools like behavior assessments, competency scorecards and planning worksheets reinforce practicality.

While the book doesn't deeply critique arguments from other sources in the field, a key strength lies in grounding principles in real-world cases from the Big Ten Academic Alliance leadership programs. This showcases commitment to pragmatic leadership applications.

Ultimately, this guide transcends being a mere reference by serving as a companion for the leadership journey, written in an academic tone fitting the subject's complexity. As higher education continually evolves, this resourceful book illuminates paths for leaders to navigate immediate and broader themes—strategic planning, change management, communication and more. Its comprehensive coverage makes it vital not just for current administrators but also future higher education leadership aspirants.

"A Guide for Leaders in Higher Education" stands out as a cornerstone for higher education leadership literature, blending theory with real-world applications and diverse perspectives. While a deeper critique of other scholarly arguments could have strengthened it further, the book empowers leaders to drive change aligned with institutional goals and stakeholder expectations—leaving an indelible impact on this landscape.