

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

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This program is to promote a discussion around mentoring and women in leadership. I shared my story below about the people who helped shape my life.

In elementary school, there were several adults who helped to shape my life and career. Besides my parents, teachers at my schools encouraged me to take leadership roles and through their example, I was able to overcome multiple challenges and finished college. In college, there was one professor who insisted what when the time was right, I should go to graduate school. I did do that and pursued my doctorate.

I worked for over 35 years in a public school system as a teacher, coach, SGA sponsor, AP, Principal, and then a director. There were many colleagues whose shoulders I balanced on and after retiring, I went to a national association to start the work of Women in Leadership. I met many ‘giants’ while working and traveling all over the world.

Lifting up a woman to face the obstacles and challenges of everyday life is a gift. I am truly blessed to have been “lifted up” and today, through P. E. O., I hope I can lift up other wonderful women onto my shoulders so they can see a path forward.

Footnote: The phrase “Standing on the Shoulders of Giants” comes from the olden days when warriors set out to challenge other tribes. The warriors would put other men on their shoulders so they could have a set of eyes to tell them where to go.

Discussion prompts:

What people helped shape your life and profession? How did they do this?

What leadership roles were you encouraged to pursue?

How have you helped shaped the lives of young people?

What challenges are there in mentoring younger women?

What are some ways we can be more supportive of our Scholarship nominees?

