



The Shambhala Institute

for Authentic Leadership

Mission

The Shambhala Institute aspires to be a beacon and support for all those who are working towards more compassionate, life-serving, and sustainable organizations and communities. This intention is expressed in the archetypal story of Shambhala, which has been told in Central Asia for over two thousand years. Shambhala is an enlightened society, where blind self-interest has been overcome and where the institutions of everyday life express and foster fundamental human goodness and brilliance.

The Shambhala Institute stands for the unconquerable spirit of human aspiration and innovation. Through its programs, activities, and relationships, the Institute cultivates the kind of leadership needed to realize the vision of more enlightened communities, organizations, and societies. We fulfill this mission by creating powerful environments of learning, dialogue, practice, and community.

Guiding principles

The following principles are foundational to the Institute's culture and programs.

Authenticity. The Institute's activities flow out of an allegiance to an authentic way of being and a desire to serve the world. Its programs cultivate a depth and clarity of attention and intention, as a foundation for leadership.

Clear seeing. Effective leadership begins with seeing situations clearly and directly. As leaders we are challenged to question our assumptions, acknowledge interdependence and complexity, and attend to detail with precision.

Inherent capacity. Authentic leadership operates "from the inside out," tapping into the inherent goodness, intelligence, and richness of oneself and others. Leaders catalyze transformative learning and performance by drawing out and building upon capacities that already exist within individuals, communities, and organizations.

Transformative learning. The Institute's learning environments embrace creative paradox, where openness is discovered within structure, simplicity within complexity, stillness within action, and order within chaos. Leadership development is an ongoing journey of personal and collective transformation.

Transformative action. The Institute's programs and activities enable leaders to step boldly into action, and to catalyze and sustain systemic change.