

Book list provided by Dr. Victoria Ferrar-Myers:

1. "Leadership" by James MacGregor Burns
2. "Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation" by Parker J. Palmer
3. "Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking" by Susan Cain
4. "Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead" by Brene Brown

I have ordered these books in the sequence in which I came across them in my life. The first book coincides with the pursuit of my Ph.D. and immersing myself in the scholarship of understanding the role that leaders can play in effecting change. From there, during the early years of my teaching career, I was challenged during a fellowship to read "Let Your Life Speak". It opened up a whole new way of thinking about what individual choices and acts can have on others and in the world. Next, as a new mother, I picked up "Quiet" thinking it would help me understand how my then-reserved son might navigate the world. As I turned each page, though, I found more and more of myself in the book's lessons. Finally, during a Fulbright Fellowship living abroad in Australia for six months, a friend recommended "Daring Greatly". I found this book and my trip led me to wanting to find a way to have a greater impact on my community when I returned home, and this ultimately resulted in me seeking public office.