

## Women In Leadership Seminar Highlights Septmeber 26, 2008



Dr. Terry C. Blum

**September 26, 2008:** “Voicing Values and Change Leadership” - featuring Dr. Terry C. Blum, Founding Director and Tedd Munchak Chair, GA Tech’s Institute for Leadership & Entrepreneurship; Professor, GT College of Management (previously Dean for 7 years.) Dr. Blum earned her Phd from Columbia University and served on the faculty of Tulane. Her impact and credibility in the academic and business world are stellar and have earned her significant recognition, e.g., she has served on Stanford’s Roundtable on Eng. Entrepreneurship Education, Project Tsunami’s Global Brain Trust and GA Tech’s Economic Dev. Institute. Currently she serves on the boards of the Comm. Foundation of Morgan County, Jr. Achievement, and MedShare.

### **Dr. Blum’s definition of leadership:**

“The capacity to influence others to achieve a common goal.” It is not dependent on your position.

### **Key “take-aways:”**

- Leadership is not about you: it’s about others.
- Credibility is the foundation of leadership; has to be demonstrated, i.e., “practice what you preach.”
- Be optimistic; cynicism is deadly to leadership. Mark Twain said, “You can’t depend on your eyes when your imagination is out of focus.”
- Women must close the gap between personal / family life and professional life.
- Explore your values; be conscious of them; behavior reflects your values.
- Behave transparently (i.e., decrease your blind spots.)
- Be authentic.
- Encourage the heart; women are better at this and thus make good leaders.
- Courage without skills is deadly.
- Make a difference!
- Offer people “what can be.”
- Make ourselves vulnerable everyday.
- Be committed to growth: socially, environmentally, and culturally.
- Women must learn to negotiate more effectively.