

## **Walking In the Shadow of LIT President**

Early (5 a.m.)...Prepared...Multitask...Every minute counts...Ethical...Bottom line...Resolution driven...Purposeful...Fair...Open...Transparent...Action list...Cute shoes, not today...The Beginning and The End...5:30 p.m.

So, what is this all about? I'm glad you asked. It was Monday, May 1, 2017 and I'm off to shadow Dr. Howard. As life would have it, the morning started a bit slow, for a short time, due to life situations. However, Dr. Howard moved right along as his day had already began at about 5 a.m. Dr. Howard immediately greeted me and gave me his daily calendar. As he worked on the computer he was sharing with me LIT's TSUS Teacher Excellence Award nominee.

I was amused to find out that in addition to Dr. Howard speaking at LIT's graduation and being San Jacinto College's commencement speaker, he accepted the honor of also being the commencement speaker at Houston Community College. Here's the big thing, they all are in the same week...WOW! I thought that was AWESOME! However, when he shared with me the reason he took the third speaking engagement I was amazed! The HCC graduation will honor veterans (he's a VET) but the biggest reason is that it brings exposure to LIT. Now that's an AWESOME and considerate president.

It is 8:25 a.m., time to head out for the President's Cabinet meeting in the MPC. I'm walking down the stairs not knowing I'm about to get left behind. Making sure my every step is careful as I walked in my heels, Dr. Howard is ahead of me holding the door. We weren't walking across the street we were driving. MOVING and SHAKING we GO! Here's another funny thing, at the end of the meeting as I walked out, I took one minute to give Facilities Director Stephen Arnold a reference he needed at the city. Again, I was about to get left behind. Dr. Howard moved so quickly I never realized he was headed to the car and was waiting for me to get in it.

The daily calendar started with seven scheduled meetings and ended with a total of 16 meetings, of which 14 I was a part. During each meeting he made sure all in attendance knew who I was, and that I was shadowing him for the day. If they didn't know who I was he had me introduce myself. There was not one time I felt like a stranger, a visitor, unwelcomed, not part of discussions or not permitted to ask questions. However, I elected to follow the outline of all meetings that I shared with Dr. Howard once we returned to his office in between meetings and at the end of the day.

I must say that this day was extremely fast paced, professional, welcoming, not micromanaged, very engaging, and straight to the point on all matters.

Dr. Howard welcomes your issues and/or concerns, however, he wants a solution. Don't go to him with a problem if you haven't considered a solution, which he will gladly receive and discuss with you. He is extremely fair and considerate in every aspect of his role as president, and as a person in general. His interactions with the Leadership Team, faculty, staff and students were AWESOME. Everyone was addressed directly and with the highest level of respect.

In closing, my opening paragraph describes the work day of Dr. Howard. If you want to know what it's really like, don't take my word, send him an email, then be prepared for a great and busy day. Oh and leave your HEELS home!

Dr. Howard, thank you does not express how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to shadow you for a day. It's an honor to be under your leadership and looking forward to the growth. In addition, I will watch "Blue Bloods" for an in depth idea of working with you.