

Resolve to Check Your Ego at the Door

Bryce Hoffman, *American Icon: Alan Mulally and the Fight to Save the Ford Motor Company*

Here are 9 things you can do to become a better leader in 2022.

It's a new year, and if you're like most people, you're probably taking the opportunity to reflect on what you've done right and what you could do better in 2022.

One of the most important things you can do as a leader is learn to check your ego at the door.

During my time as a business journalist, I had the opportunity to get to know some of the greatest CEOs of our time. They all had egos, but they also had the emotional intelligence to understand the problems their egos could cause if they gave them free rein. So, they learned to control them.

How did they do it?

- ⇒ By pulling other people into the spotlight and sharing credit.
- ⇒ By highlighting the contributions of subordinates.
- ⇒ By asking questions instead of telling people what to do.
- ⇒ By seeking understanding instead of seeking to be understood.
- ⇒ By asking tough questions of themselves as well.
- ⇒ By making it about "we" instead of "me."
- ⇒ By being a coach, rather than a king.
- ⇒ By looking for true "win-win" solutions instead of playing a zero-sum game.
- ⇒ By recognizing that the success of their organizations was the greatest testament to their own abilities.

These are behaviors that every leader—no matter where they live on the org chart—should cultivate. Resolve to do this yourself in 2022.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryce", is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.