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## Redefining Success with Petra Learning

July/August 2014



### IN THIS EDITION

#### Creating Boundaries for Success

Have you erected the right fences to keep you focused and on track?

#### Mentoring Moment

This month's quick mentoring in a moment tip.

#### Tools and resources spotlight

#### Petra and You

Check out this [video](#) to learn more about Petra Learning LLC.

Contact us at:

[info@petralearning.com](mailto:info@petralearning.com) to discuss training needs, book training events, or request additional information.

#### May/June Podcast:

Check out this month's podcast.

"Walking in Humility"

Listen to this podcast for motivation to do what you already know you need to do.

For this podcast (and previous ones), [click here](#).

#### Suggested Reading

**Go Deeper into our discussion topics with these resources**

1. Guardrails

2. Standing for Something

If you would like see other books on my reading shelf, connect with me on [Goodreads](#).

#### Creating Boundaries for Success



Fences serve two purposes: to keep out and to keep in. Generally, they're used to exert some control over what is generally out-of-your control (example, the neighbor's dog). Our illusion of control over our own lives could make it seem like we don't need fences. But that couldn't be further from the truth. Why do we need fences in life?

**1. To set boundaries for our actions.** Just because an action is permitted, doesn't mean that we should do it. All things that are permissible aren't necessarily beneficial. I could sign-up for 10 online courses at one time if I want to but doing so isn't really beneficial to me. How could I possibly give each course the attention it deserves? How could I truly engage and learn? I could pay below market wages to individuals that can't afford to leave their job and not violate labor laws. But is that the right thing to do? Fences help us define how far we're willing to go to gain an advantage. It creates a boundary for us that becomes the line in the sand that we won't cross.

**2. To curb our impulses.** An action could be permissible and beneficial and still not be right for us because our attention needs to be elsewhere. Reading a business book is a great way to develop yourself. If you love books as I do, it easy to use every bit of available time to read. However, if you're reading a book when you should be writing a book or networking or spending time with your family, then your focus is misplaced. We need fences to stop us from wondering off course. That latest gizmo that just cam out may have amazing bells and whistles but is it worth going into debt to purchase? Fences help us to say no and maintain focus.

**3. To protect our hearts and minds.** People are capable of unspeakable cruelty. People are able to rationalize almost any action whether it's racism, sexism, lying, stealing, cheating, and so on. If we're not careful, we can begin to accept some of their rationalizations as legitimate. We need fences to keep out errant thinking that could lead us astray.

### Mentoring Moment



How often do you talk about boundaries with colleagues? When was the last time that you communicated an action that wasn't taken because it violated your principles? Sometimes what we choose not to do speaks much more loudly than what we choose to do. People that are following your lead need to know the trade-offs that you've made and why. You have to help them peak under the hood so they can see your fences in action.

**If you'd like to learn more about coaching contact [tiffany@petralearning.com](mailto:tiffany@petralearning.com).**

## Tools and Resources

To develop additional skill sets that will allow you to operate differently, check out these two product offerings at Petra's website:

[1. Petra's Transformational Leadership Learning Lab](#)

[2. Successful Operating Strategies \(SOS\) for Small Businesses](#)

[3. Dublin Area Leadership Development Group](#)

(F2F and online meetup group)

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