



# Contours of Great Leadership: The Science, Art, and Wisdom of Outstanding Practice

*Rosemary Papa, Fenwick W. English R. Wendell Eaves Sr. Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Mary Culver, Ric Brown, Frank Davidson*

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A contour is usually defined as an outline or the structure or characteristic of something. A contour line which is shown on a contour map indicates points of elevation. We think that all of these definitions fit *Contours of Great Leadership*.

This book brings together many aspects of concepts and theories of leadership. It is an amalgam of ideas from the social sciences and the humanities woven together in the idea of leadership as an accoutrement, that is, a deliberate woven garment comprising science, art, experience, and craft knowledge. Thus we see leadership not as either/or an art or a science; or craft knowledge vs. scientific or research based knowledge, but rather as all of them combined and which occurs between followers and leaders within distinctive cultures and modes of communication.

The importance of context and culture as the milieu in which leadership is acquired and learned is critical. In the end leadership is a performing art form, which while it can be studied scientifically, cannot be understood solely as a science without connecting it to the arts and ultimately to practice.

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