THE PROFESSIONAL WE ALL WANT TO BECOME

Presented by Frank Troyka 2014 Conn-Selmer Institute

Perception is Reality

- A poor first impression is difficult to overcome.
- No matter what you do, you will never please everyone.
- You will have to work every single day to move toward and become like the professional you define for yourself.

Create the "Perfect Picture." What Makes One a Professional?

From the Perspective of the Administration

- A mature individual.
- Someone who follows through on faculty obligations (paperwork, procedures, communication, meetings, e-mail).
- Someone who thinks globally—what's good for the school is good for the band.
- Someone whose actions are defensible.
- Someone who can rally the support of parents in a positive direction.

From the Perspective of an Assistant Director (what he wants to see in the head director)

- A leader.
- A visionary.
- · An advocate for his assistants.
- A mentor; someone from whom the assistants can learn and grow professionally.
- · An achiever.

From the Perspective of the Head Director (what he wants to see in his assistant)

- · Someone who wants to learn.
- Someone who anticipates problems and presents alternatives.
- A loyal supporter.
- Someone who will embrace the mundane tasks to allow the head director to focus on the curriculum.

From the Perspective of the Parents

- A role model for their children; a grown-up (particularly if the teacher is young).
- Someone who cares about the child first.
- · Someone who is not controversial.
- Someone who creates success for their children.

From the Perspective of the Community

- A focal point for school spirit (most of them come to know us by way of football games).
- A "leader;" someone who sees the "big picture."
- An example of morality and ethics (we lose our anonymity in this profession).

From the Perspective of the Students (what they should see)

- An expert.
- Someone who loves his job.
- Someone who challenges them.
- Someone who cares about them as individuals first and musicians second.
- A role model; a stable, honest, rational person.
- Someone who has their best interest at heart.
- Someone who is fair.

From the Perspective of the Students ("What makes your band director a professional?")

- He's not just an expert in music. He knows a lot about other subjects in school.
- The other teachers respect him.
- They possess the information and they're passionate about it. They're not afraid to show their passion.
- He likes the things we like and helps us learn about things we might not appreciate otherwise.
- Their students become successful in music and in life. They learn values in music that apply to everything.
- They always seem to have strong, important goals and they let everyone in on them.
- He's not just a teacher, he's someone you can just talk to.
- The teacher cares about the student, not just about music but in the other things important in the student's life.
- Someone who cares about them as a person.

From the perspective of the Director Himself

- Do you have a role model yourself? A mentor?
- Back to "painting the perfect picture."

Random Thoughts

- Take care of your people. Give them all the credit; you take responsibility (especially when you become a head director).
- Never stop learning. Go wherever the information is. Take chances.
- Don't limit yourself to one way of thinking. There's more than one path to the top of the mountain.
- Be proactive when working with your administration. Get there first!
- Be a mentor and friend to your students but not a buddy. They must not see you as a peer.
- If you choose to interact with your band parents socially, remember they're still band parents. Be professional and never do or say anything that may come back to haunt you.
- Forget about your title. Do the job.
- · Be accessible.
- Take advantage of opportunities to reveal the depth of your love of teaching.
- You'll be remembered more for what people think you have done than what you have actually done.
- No bashing. Whatever you want from the world, give it first.
- Remember, we're all only one crazed parent away from having our lives changed forever.

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