My career path has given me the opportunity to work for agencies involved in advances and improvements in an assortment of technologies. I lead groups with different skill sets and diverse backgrounds to analyze, plan, and develop software, hardware, and network elements in support of telecommunications and Information Systems (IS) enterprise. I have been involved with teams that evaluate projects to establish the vision, desires, and requirements for the public community and private sectors. My natural leadership competencies and experience have shaped my strategy and overall approach to facilitate a clear course of action that meet the mission objectives and answers questions about the organizations and businesses desires.

As I mentioned, I have worked in environments with a mixture of cultures, diverse business models, numerous organizational structures, and different leadership styles. I have found myself in situations where political "storms" tend to direct a mission. These "storms" tend to slow down major system development and cause the revamping of budgets. I have also seen where the political aim can also assist with funding and move the project forward. In either case, we do need the political influence to help all stakeholders understand how, why, and what of a project.

One example was a high visibility project, I was responsible for planning, integration, and testing of networks and Radio Frequency (RF) systems and to logistically move an existing infrastructure and Network Operations Center (NOC) from one local city to another. I was in charge of assembling personnel and resources to support internal and external clients and stakeholders while considering a limited budget and high expectations. I spent a lot of time reevaluating the mission's requirements, value, and objectives due to management's almost continuously change in direction.

In order to overcome this venture, I believe in teamwork and in order to influence others you have to have a game plan. Success starts with knowing myself, understanding individual's ability, and recognize the available resources. One phrase that comes to mind is "open communication". I have learned over the years that team members, users, and stakeholders like to be kept up to date on how objectives are being met throughout the life of a project. I believe the way I communicate, including nonverbal, influences how the community perceives my effort and displays the care I have for the mission. Depending on what segment of the community I have to address decides my approach. For example, with team members I was more informal face-to-face and more formal with users and stakeholders. I have communicated to team members and stakeholders many times, in many forms throughout my career. I try to mimic leading from former mentors and leaders I admirer. I try to live by my expression, "...win with what you have and be fair..." Knowing your individual team members are key to creating an environment that is dynamic.

The mission was a success because I employed project management and systems engineering methodologies and tools. I try to share my knowledge and experience to as many team members as I can. I emphasize equality to all team members, encourage versatility, and high level of focus with strong work ethics. I try to find a way to interpret the technical and pragmatic characteristics into language that explains the logical reasoning for the project and the benefits it will bring to all stakeholders.