

Movie Report: Hidden Figures

Title: Hidden Figures

Director: Theodore Melfi

Release Date: January 6, 2017

Genre: Biography, Drama, History

Runtime: 127 minutes

Introduction

The film *Hidden Figures* highlights the remarkable contributions of three African American women—Katherine Johnson, Mary Jackson, and Dorothy Vaughan—at NASA during the space race. Their stories reveal the challenges they faced due to racial and gender discrimination and provide valuable lessons in leadership, resilience, and teamwork. This report explores the insights from their journeys and their relevance to modern business practices.

Learning from Mary Jackson's Story

Mary Jackson's experience underscores the importance of self-advocacy and leadership. Faced with discriminatory practices, such as using a segregated bathroom, she took a stand for her rights. Her boss, Harrison, exemplified effective leadership by removing the "Colored" sign from the restroom door, demonstrating how leaders can dismantle barriers and foster inclusivity.

Key Leadership Lessons

1. **Empowerment:** Leaders should encourage team members to voice their concerns and advocate for change.
2. **Courage to Challenge Norms:** Effective leaders are willing to confront the status quo for the benefit of their team.
3. **Creating Inclusive Environments:** Leaders significantly influence workplace culture by promoting equality and respect.

Real-World Business Application

In today's corporate landscape, leaders must actively work to create inclusive environments. Encouraging open dialogue and addressing systemic barriers can enhance innovation and employee satisfaction.

Learning from Katherine Johnson's Story

Katherine Johnson faced numerous obstacles while pursuing her passion for mathematics and engineering. Her determination led her to challenge educational barriers, including convincing a judge to allow her admission to an engineering course. Her story highlights the power of persuasion and innovative thinking.

Key Insights

1. **Resilience Against Odds:** Persistence is crucial for success.
2. **Power of Convincing:** Strong communication skills are essential for advocating for oneself and others.
3. **Innovative Thinking:** Creative problem-solving can lead to significant opportunities.

Real-World Business Application

In business, employees should be encouraged to advocate for their professional development. Organizations benefit from fostering a culture that values creativity and encourages innovative solutions.

Learning from Dorothy Vaughan's Story

Dorothy Vaughan demonstrated exceptional adaptability as computers began to transform her workplace. Rather than succumbing to fear, she proactively learned how to use the new IBM computers and taught her colleagues. This highlights the importance of empathy and teamwork in overcoming challenges.

Key Takeaways

1. **Adaptability:** Embracing change is vital in a rapidly evolving business environment.
2. **Empathy in Leadership:** Understanding team members' fears fosters a supportive atmosphere.
3. **Teamwork:** Collaboration and knowledge-sharing enhance a team's ability to adapt.

Real-World Business Application

Businesses should prioritize continuous learning and development. Investing in employee training and promoting collaboration can improve team performance and morale.

Conclusion

The stories of Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Dorothy Vaughan serve as powerful reminders of the importance of leadership, resilience, and teamwork in overcoming adversity. Their experiences offer valuable lessons for individuals and organizations seeking to create inclusive, innovative, and adaptable workplaces. By embracing these lessons, businesses can empower all employees to contribute their best, driving success and progress.