**Why I Lead**
*Nonthesis Project Abstract*

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Leadership doesn’t develop in a vacuum; it is formed over a lifetime of experiences. The purpose of this project was to document the stories of graduates from the Wedgworth Leadership Institute, demonstrating the development of their leadership philosophy from personal life experiences.

I produced seven videos by interviewing eight Wedgworth graduates who represent different leadership positions in agriculture in the state of Florida. I learned that my initial hypothesis was correct: one’s leadership philosophy is directly tied to personal growth experiences and their ability to synthesize and internalize those life events. Often, people referred to their parents as being examples and, due to the sample being comprised of Wedgworth graduates, all participants described growing through the Wedgworth Leadership Institute. These videos will be excellent tools for both the Wedgworth Leadership Institute and the leadership development program in AEC. The Wedgworth Leadership Institute can potentially use these videos in presentations, classes and promotional materials, while the leadership development program can use the videos as pedagogical examples of leadership in action.

**Why I Lead video series**: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLaSvP6tceiNKy9iHc9pkFxRaHTsbAUqac>

* **Sean Brantley & Marcie Downing**, Founders, *Leadership FPMA*
* **Rick Roth**, President, *Roth Farms, Inc.*
* **Nancy McDonald**, President, *NGM Productions*
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