



L3 LEADERSHIP PODCAST

Episode #247: Leadership Lessons Learned from Leading 250,000 People with John Donovan, Former CEO of AT&T Communications

L3Leadership.org/episode247

ABOUT JOHN:

John Donovan is the former CEO of AT&T Communications, a global telecommunications company serving millions of customers worldwide. John has decades of experience working in executive leadership roles, including as the Executive Vice President of Product, Sales, Marketing and Operations at Verisign Inc. and the Chairman and CEO of inCode Telecom Group Inc. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA in Finance from the University of Minnesota - Carlson School of Management.

CONNECT WITH JOHN:

- [John Donovan on LinkedIn](#)

RESOURCES:

- [Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World—and Why Things Are Better Than You Think](#) by Hans Rosling

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

John joins me today to share the leadership lessons he has learned from leading over 250,000 people at AT&T. He shares his perspective on hard work, being committed to self-improvement, and why achieving success in your career is more than following a few simple steps like a recipe in a cookbook. He explains why he believes 'your world is your mentor' and the lessons you can learn from every person you encounter. He also shares the lessons he's learned by creating a life plan, his perspective on achieving work-life balance, and how leaders can create and sustain great company cultures by modeling the culture and behavior you expect from your employees.

- The importance of hard work and focusing on self-improvement to achieve personal and professional success
- The challenges John faced throughout his career that set him apart and led to his success as an organization leader
- Why John doesn't believe there is a recipe for succeeding in life or business and his strategy for preparing for the next level of leadership
- The difference between a mentor and a career advocate
- John's advice for aspiring and emerging leaders
- The importance of being honest and authentic and the value of emotional maturity and knowing your core values as a leader
- John's morning routine and why he always tries to "own the morning"
- The importance of taking career risks while you're young and John's perspective on work-life balance
- Lessons John has learned regarding money and happiness
- Cultivating a healthy mindset to manage the stress and pressure of being a leader
- John's advice for creating and sustaining a great company culture

Thanks for tuning into this week's episode of the L3 Leadership Podcast. If you enjoyed this episode, please head over to Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, or Google Play to subscribe and leave us a rating and review.