

COMMUNITY

YLDP Houston : The morals of a CEO



Fifty aspiring leaders of Youth Leadership Development Program of Houston packed India House on Oct. 10 as we watched the leading provider of Plastic and Chemicals, Bhavesh (Bob) Patel, detail his journey to the top as Lyondell Basell's CEO.

During this seminar, Bob Patel recounts the values and ideals that have led him to this point, and how his career has evolved to encompass more than just Lyondell Basell.

One of the most common reoccurring themes within his discussion is his idea of "Can I contribute, can I learn?"

This message was a mantra that Patel referenced every time he made a big decision, may that be pursuing an education, getting a job, or starting a family.

In fact, this stems from Patel's childhood in a one-parent household where, despite struggling financially, Patel's mother still held her values close.

One example of this is when she says, "You should always treat people as though they are in misfortune". Similarly, Patel himself upholds his own personal values at work, and according to him, this has provided him an outlook on life that isn't driven by greed but more so genuine goals of bettering himself.

Moreover, another key factor of Patel's success was his support system, which consists of his wife and two sons who encouraged him through every major decision in his life. Namely, when it came to the numerous moves required by

Bhavesh Patel to manage positions across the world, and this spanned from New Zealand to Singapore, to the USA, to Europe within 18 months.

Many would see these moves as a constant pain, but according to the Harvard Business Review "Effective executives see challenges as opportunities of success," which is just what Patel did as he took the challenge head-on and ended up bettering the company as a whole.

To conclude, Bhavesh Patel graciously offered his experience and time as Lyondell Basell's CEO to young aspiring leaders who will most definitely use his words as encouragement in the future.

—By Rohankumar Reddy Kataram

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