

## **A Guide to what it means to commit to the Character Pledge for Life.**

### **I pledge to dream and reach high to achieve my purpose in life.**

Your future begins with your dreams. It's said that "our thoughts become our words, our words become our actions, our actions become our habits, our habits become our character and our character determines our destiny". Dreaming gives you purpose, hope and a path to follow. You are pledging to dream—and dream big—to follow your dreams and never waiver until you achieve your purpose. And then you will create new dreams.

### **I pledge to not blame my past nor anyone else for the decisions I make or the person I become.**

You are acknowledging that you are in control of your life—regardless of past experience or people that may have mistreated or failed you. You choose to accept that even if you have not had guidance, or if your conditions have not changed, YOU are now in control and can decide between right and wrong, success and failure. While you do not have the power to choose where you come from, you can pledge to take full responsibility and harness the power within you to change your life for the better.

### **I pledge to take full responsibility for creating my own destiny.**

You are committing to take immediate action to reach your goals. There will always be those who will help you get your foot in the door, but it will be up to you to shine from that point forward. You are committing not to sit idly as opportunity presents itself. You are pledging to take the necessary action to create opportunities and take full advantage of opportunities created for you by others. You agree to be smart, prepared, persistent, courageous, honest and work tirelessly to earn what you deserve.

### **I pledge to hold myself and my work to the upper most standard of professionalism.**

You pledge to adhere to a code of ethics that other successful leaders have honed over the years in both your business and personal life. You are committing to being, or becoming, knowledgeable and organized, helpful and fair, trusted and loyal. You will strive to be understanding, loving, and a dependable role model. You pledge to be a respected person of great integrity.

**I pledge to go above and beyond the acceptable goals in any endeavor I undertake.**

Do not be mediocre. When you make a commitment do everything in your power to complete every task beyond expectations. Whether you are an employer or an employee, you promise to be an example for the team and set the standard by being the first person to show up and the last one to leave. You are pledging to go above and beyond what is expected so that you will always stand out from the crowd.

**I pledge to stand tall in the face of adversity by avoiding excuses and creating solutions.**

Life is filled with hardships that you will not let deter you. When you are faced with a problem, you will spend minimal time justifying why it happened (or feeling sorry for yourself) and instead agree to work on finding a way to correct the issue and allow you to move on as a better person. Life will be full of failures and mistakes; however, you are pledging to learn from them and use that experience to further your goals and educate future generations.

**I pledge to earn the respect of my family, friends and colleagues.**

The world is full of diversity but our differences are what make this world great—if we all thought the same, we would not need each other. The world does not owe you anything and you must strive to earn respect if you expect to work to achieve common goals. Whether we are dealing with our personal or business life, you are, and will always be in the people business. You pledge to unite with those around you for the sake of building your network.

**I pledge to use my skills and talents to enrich my life and those around me.**

It takes time, hard work, commitment and discipline to develop your skillset and talents. You agree not to waste those gifts for just personal gain when, with such little effort, you can also improve the quality of life for others who can't help themselves.

**I pledge to leave behind a better world for those who follow me.**

You acknowledge that in the end, being truly successful has two parts. First, reaching your personal goals while supporting your family; and second, the contributions you leave for future generations. You pledge that when you finally discover your purpose in life, you will also use your success to create opportunities for the next generation.