Leadership Lessons from the Antarctic

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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER



Sarah A. Rajala, PhD James L. and Katherine S. Melsa Dean of Engineering Iowa State University ONE HUNDRED and four years ago, under the leadership of polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton, the *Endurance* set sail for the Antarctic.

Shackleton had established a potentially history-making goal: to be the first to walk across the continent of Antarctica.

Even though he never led a crew of more than twenty-seven men, and failed to reach most of the goals he set, Shackleton is still recognized as one of the world's greatest leaders. How could that be?

In this presentation, we will explore what made Shackleton a great leader and how his leadership traits have influenced my own career.

Dr. Sarah Rajala is an inaugural member of the new Michigan Tech Academy of Engineering Education Leadership. She earned her BS in Electrical Engineering from Michigan Tech, and MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering from Rice University. She is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), and ABET.



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