



Dr. Peter Koestenbaum, 84, of Santa Cruz, California, is the founder of the acclaimed Leadership Diamond® philosophy and a leadership consultant and executive coach to companies such as Ford Motor Company, the World Economic Forum, and IBM. Dr. Koestenbaum has acted as spiritual mentor and colleague to Dr. Mahamouda Salouhou, the founder and director of ECLEE. In an interview in 2012, Dr. Koestenbaum discusses what makes ECLEE, its director, and its foundational philosophy so important to today's world.

How did your relationship with ECLEE and Dr. Salouhou begin, and why did you continue to work with him?

I met Dr. Salouhou at the University of Washington in Seattle about ten years ago. He was involved in a project for Boeing, using his leadership, innovation, and capacity to produce new material. He has been a wonderful intellectual partner all these years.

I am a strong advocate of Dr. Salouhou with good reason. The late poet Adrienne Rich coined the phrase, "We are living in a time that needs to be lived through us," and one of the "us" people is Salouhou. Born in Africa to poverty, he had a hard life growing up, but he went to a prestigious university and now teaches at several, so he speaks for a vast number of people who have difficulties. He carries credibility for the majority of mankind and is an extremely ethical person of extraordinary integrity.

Why is ECLEE so relevant in current global academia and business?

Pragmatically, it is a clearly defined program that uses an exact theme. ECLEE teaches leadership, skill, character, and putting humanities and science together again.

Dr. Salouhou's main work through ECLEE is to help people understand and implement the concepts of your Leadership Diamond® philosophy in their lives, careers, and communities. What is the most important value that ECLEE instills in those associated with its programs?

The number-one value is real accountability. Free will has consequences, and consequences change the world. Accountability is the celebration and responsible use of free will. We are meant to happily accept the burden of having free will—that is the heart of the human condition and of ECLEE. Do you have the will to lead? And if you do not, heaven help you, and heaven help the world.

Many organizations provide leadership training. What makes ECLEE different?

Its philosophic base gives it a credibility that no one else has. To master the relationship between ego and world (system thinking) is what an education is all about. No one else has done that with as high a sense of responsibility and professionalism. ECLEE teaches that human beings need to be used in the right way, not abused.

**Learning that
takes you places.**

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