



## turning managers into leaders

### **Merge's Monthly Mega Minute – December 2007**

Welcome to **Merge's Monthly Mega-Minute** - a bite-sized, yet substantial and practical, nugget of information that you can use immediately to enhance your professional and personal success.

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*Merge Gupta-Sunderji helps turn managers into leaders. Through engaging keynotes and facilitated workshops, she gives people specific and practical tools to achieve leadership and communication success. Contact her at [www.mergespeaks.com](http://www.mergespeaks.com) or 403-605-4756*

### **You can't drive a car by looking in the rearview mirror**

If you're a good driver, then you know that it's important to occasionally glance in your rearview mirror; it makes you more aware of what's happening around you, and ultimately it helps you formulate better decisions about your driving. However, you can't get your car to its ultimate destination merely by looking in the rearview mirror. Instead, you need two far more critical necessities – fuel for your vehicle and a map to guide you to where you're going.

As the year 2007 comes to a close, it's not a bad time to stop and reflect on the successes and challenges of the past twelve months. As a leader, you've probably had your share of both. But just like driving a vehicle, make sure you take no more than a quick glance backwards. Just as it's extremely hard to drive a car forward by looking in the rearview mirror, it is very hard to move forward professionally and personally by focusing on what happened (good or bad) in the year just gone by. Look backwards occasionally since it will make you a better driver, but spend more time fueling up and mapping out your course. Before the doors close on 2007, spend a few minutes making a short list of what you're going to do to invest in yourself and your people next year – what you're going to do to fuel up. Whether it's attending training courses, making a commitment to read more, job shadowing a colleague, getting a mentor, or being a mentor, ensure that you're fueling up your vehicles for 2008. At the same time, think seriously about your goals and objectives for the upcoming year – where do you want to go, and perhaps more importantly, how are you going to get there? If you don't know where you're going, nor how you're going to get there, don't be surprised if you end up somewhere else!

My best wishes to each of you for an exciting and exhilarating 2008. I hope that our paths

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cross again in person sometime in this upcoming year.