Lessons from a life on the Soccer Field

Yolanda Thomas
Head Coach
Women’s Soccer
Rogers State University
You are here today because you have been identified as some of the brightest and most influential people on this campus.

Someone saw something in you and you worked hard to get to where you are today.

Because of you, the bar at RSU has been raised, and continues to rise.

Today is an opportunity to better yourself
A little bit about me
A little bit about me

- Sweden & Kenya
- Oklahoma
Working with diverse groups

- German
- French
- Italian
- Romansh

Switzerland
How do you respond to failure?

- Switzerland did not have a good tournament – who/what was to blame?
- OSU vs. Clemson
Value Others

- Effective Leaders connect with the people they lead and not only the goal they are pursuing.
- Value the people you are on the journey with.
Pay it Forward

- “Bamse”
- You did not get to where you are on your own.
- Humility is key
- Good leaders are attentive listeners
Who will you Empower?
Where will your influence take you?

Teammate KL
Final Words...

- Good leaders are good learners
- Be willing to be uncomfortable
- Seek out opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others
- Focus on what you can change
- Try, then try again, then try again
- Be the One
- You are the Future