

**SAMPLE**



# MAKE YOUR DESTINY HAPPEN



**TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR LIFE  
WITH THE DESTINY DEVELOPMENT  
DELTA MODEL FOR  
TRANSFORMATIONAL SUCCESS**

**DONZEL A. LECGETT**

# **MAKE YOUR DESTINY HAPPEN**

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Take Control of Your Life with the  
Destiny Development Delta Model  
for Transformational Success

**DONZEL A. LEGGETT**

Destiny Development Delta  
Take Control of Your  
Life and Destiny



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*This book is dedicated to all my family and friends who have supported me  
throughout my life. I could not have done this without you.  
Thank you for your love.*

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SECTION 1

# INTRODUCTION

# INTRODUCTION

Do you want to make your destiny happen?

In 1993, when I was twenty-four years old, I asked myself that same question. I decided that my answer was yes and developed a life plan that laid the road map for my journey to take control of my life and my destiny. Since that time, I have been steadily advancing that life plan for my family, career, financial stability, community, and, most importantly, authentic happiness. It is gratifying knowing that I am activating *my plan*, the plan that I developed to take me where I want to go. My plan to achieve the destiny and legacy that I desire for myself, not the one that others want for me. Just having a plan is critically important to my personal well-being, now more than ever, in a world that is chaotic and overwhelming at times and that creates unprecedented stress, discontent, and feelings of insignificance and depression for many.

There is no question that I have been fortunate in my life and that I have had a lot of help and support along the way, but I have also had to overcome some of the same struggles and challenges that many of you have.

I've QUIT.

I've FAILED.

I've LOST.

I have had setbacks and faced obstacles that have challenged my self-confidence and drive and that have made me wonder, *Am I good enough? Do I have what it takes?* I have experienced fear and uncertainty that made me ask myself, *What if I'm wrong? What if I make a mistake?*

Over the course of my journey, I have learned many valuable lessons that helped me overcome these challenges. From these lessons, I developed several support models, processes, and tools to ultimately help me persevere, succeed, and win. I have integrated this knowledge into the Destiny Development Delta model for transformational success.

Because of the Destiny Development Delta model, I wake up every morning inspired to start a new day and to further advance my journey to make my destiny happen. I am energized to keep moving my plan forward and to turn challenges and setbacks into opportunities to learn and grow. I feel a positive energy propelling me physically, mentally, and spiritually not only to advance my destiny plan but also to help others transform and achieve their life goals. For me, success and legacy include helping you make your destiny happen and leaving a positive and sustaining impact on society.

As you read this book, it is important to note that when I refer to your destiny, it is not what others want for you but what you want for yourself. You define what success and legacy are for you. I can tell you that having the clarity of knowing what you want for yourself and being in control of your life and destiny are wonderfully fulfilling and energizing feelings, and I want to inspire and enable you to experience that as well by sharing my personal story of transformation and the Destiny Development Delta model.

In this book, I will do the following:

- Introduce the Destiny Development Delta model for transformational success and illustrate how and why it is uniquely suited to help you make your destiny happen.
- Provide an in-depth explanation of the two main components of the model: the A-attitudes of leadership and the iLEAD change capabilities.
- Share personal stories and examples to bring it all to life.

The book is structured to be easily navigated and to best support your reading style and development. Section 2 identifies the model's origins intertwined with my personal story. In section 3, I provide an overview of the model and explain its integrated components. Sections 4 through 7 are dedicated to a detailed explanation of the deployment of the model. Examples and personal stories are woven throughout the book for real-life relevance. This structure allows you to read front to back or to skip from section to section if that's your preference. I have also included some exercises and reflections to maximize your learning and introduce a little fun.

In summary, I will show you that you can take control of your life and make your destiny happen.

I have quit, but I am a TENACIOUS PERSEVERER.

I have failed, but I am SUCCESSFUL.

I have lost, but I am a WINNER.

I am confident that after reading this book, you will believe in my vision that you can transform your life and control your destiny by committing to the Destiny Development Delta model.

Congratulations on taking the first step!

## SECTION 2

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# **DESTINY DEVELOPMENT DELTA MODEL BACKGROUND**

## **MAIN MESSAGES OF SECTION 2**

**T**he purpose of this section is to provide the background and context that led to the creation of the Destiny Development Delta model. In section 2, I will do the following:

- Share the important events and relevant stories that birthed my life plan, which drove the creation, over many years, of what would become the basis for the Destiny Development Delta model and are critical to explaining its origin.
- Describe the activation of my life plan, highlight the results, and explain major adjustments made to successfully navigate significant life and family changes, as well as unprecedented environmental and societal factors, while staying true to myself.
- Explain why it is more important than ever for every person to feel that they can lead and build the capability to control their destiny. You are the leader of your life, and to control your destiny, you must start to see yourself as a leader.
- Introduce the cycle of no destiny control model to clearly illustrate and explain the pattern in which many people are trapped, preventing them from taking control of their lives and destinies, and discuss what it takes to break out of this cycle.
- Introduce change and transformation, define them both, and clearly articulate the difference between the two.
- Explain why the Destiny Development Delta model is best suited to help you escape the cycle of no destiny control and embrace transformation.

## CHAPTER 2

# **MY STORY AND THE ORIGINS OF THE DESTINY DEVELOPMENT DELTA MODEL**

I am originally from Key West, Florida, the southernmost point of the continental United States. Key West is a very unique place that attracts many visitors from all over the world and is home to a highly diverse population with many interesting characters. If you have ever been there, you know what I am talking about. Growing up in Key West taught me to respect differences and to value all people, no matter their appearance, sexual orientation, or lifestyle. I learned early on that one should never judge a book by its cover, only by its contents.

The majority of my family immigrated from the Bahamas in the mid 1800s. My history is shaped by very strong women who were the leaders of our family. My great-grandmother was a wet nurse, which means that her job was to breastfeed other people's children, exclusively wealthy white people's. It is ironic that, as a Black woman, she was entrusted to breastfeed their babies, but they didn't value her enough to allow her to enter their homes through their front doors. My grandmother was a maid. Her knees and elbows were always dark and calloused from hand-scrubbing floors because she took pride in her work and wanted it done right. Neither of them received more than a sixth-grade education. But they had tremendous self-worth and incredible strength, courage, and faith. They sacrificed so that their children and future generations would have opportunities for better lives through hard work and education.

My parents were married for almost seventy years and lived their entire lives in Key West. My father worked at Southern Bell, and later Bell South, for forty-three years and was a proud member of the

Communication Workers of America. He started out as a janitor and worked his way up to a linesman, the technicians who drive the big cherry-picker trucks. He taught me perseverance and hard work. My mother worked for the United States Navy Civil Service for almost twenty years, then served as executive director for a preschool for another twenty years. She has been a recognized leader in the community for more than fifty years, regularly sought out to speak and sing at important events and to serve on committees and boards in the city and in Monroe County. She taught me to always help others, to be accountable, and to never betray my values and character, even when faced with tough choices.

My mother prioritized the value of education, and because of this I stayed focused on being a very good student. My academic record, coupled with the fact that I was six feet five inches tall and weighed 225 pounds at sixteen, earned me a full athletic scholarship to study at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, and to play in the prestigious Big Ten Conference. My goal at Purdue was to be a role model student-athlete. And that's what I did. I started more than twenty games as defensive end for the Boilermakers. I earned Academic All-Big Ten honors three times and Academic All-America honors in 1988. I did well individually, but my team did not.

I later realized that sometimes it's not enough to be just a good role model. Sometimes a leader has to step up and do more, and I simply didn't do enough. It's not about what you think the team needs; it's about what the team actually needs. I reflected on who I was and who I wanted to be and realized that leadership was something I identified with and was good at, but I had the self-insight to recognize that I had some work to do to fully understand and appreciate how far I wanted to go and what I was willing to sacrifice.

After graduating in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science and taking a semester off, I returned to Purdue to pursue a Master of Science in industrial technology. It was during my second tenure at Purdue that I met my future wife, Tracy. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in the spring of 1992 and shortly thereafter became pregnant, which triggered

the beginning of my transformation and the development of my initial life plan.

After earning my master's degree in December 1992, I was hired as an industrial engineer by a large US-based food manufacturing company. One and a half years later, Tracy and I were married and expecting our second child. I was on track to realizing a successful engineering career, with two promotions under my belt, and felt like things were going well. However, the situation changed quickly, and I made an unplanned move into management. How that happened was the first clear indication I had of the type of leader I could be and how it would influence my life plan.

I was working at the company's flagship factory, which was one of the largest in the world at that time. The facility was more than one hundred years old and employed about eleven hundred people, many second- and third-generation employees. All of the hourly employees were represented by trade unions, and the company had a history of management and union conflict. People-of-color diversity represented fewer than 1 percent of the population, and there had been only one female and one person of color in operations management in its history. The factory was also not performing well at the time and labor relations were once again rocky. But even in this environment, I loved my engineering job because it gave me the opportunity to spend all my time on the production shop floor building relationships and finding ways to make people's jobs safer and easier while also improving the plant's performance.

The production department manager abruptly left the company, and a new manager was needed urgently. This was a high-profile and sought-after job, and most thought it would go to an established manager from another factory with seven to ten years of proven leadership experience in large union environments. I didn't even consider inquiring about it because I loved being an engineer and didn't want the job and because I didn't think that I was anywhere near qualified, since I was fewer than two years removed from college with no management experience.

Unbeknownst to me, the department employees went to the union president and asked him to tell the plant manager that if he wanted to

improve labor relations, he should make me the new manager because I was the only one who cared about and listened to them. The plant manager called me and explained what was happening, then asked me to interview for the job. I was shocked, to say the least, and told him that I was not interested, nor did I think I was ready for the position. He explained that he had given his word to the union president that he would offer me an interview. I told him again that I wasn't sure I wanted to do that. Besides loving my engineering job, as a twenty-five-year-old recent college graduate, I didn't relish managing several hundred people more than twice my age. He asked if I would at least think about it and let him know the next day. I said I would, but I was still leaning heavily against interviewing.

My initial life plan called for me to move into management within the next five years, but I had not planned on it being in operations and certainly not in this plant and for the department in which I had been trained. I simply didn't think it was the right time, place, or situation. That evening, I asked one of my best friends at the plant, who was also a union employee, for his advice. He said, "Donzel, I heard about the petition to make you the manager, but I stayed out of it so that no one could say I influenced it because I'm your friend. But here's what I can tell you. You're an excellent engineer, and everyone knows that. But more importantly, you demonstrate character, and you genuinely care for and help people. You inspire others to want to do more because you engage everyone as if they each matter. Again, you're a great engineer, but we need a leader. The people here see you as that leader, and we need you to step up and lead us now. So take the interview, get the job, and have no regrets."

From that moment, I knew that I was on the right track with my life plan. I understood that controlling my destiny would mean always being prepared for the unexpected and being ready to make tough decisions to take advantage of opportunities when they present themselves. I learned that it was OK, and in fact necessary, to adjust my plan if I stay in control. In this case, I recognized that I could accelerate my career and life goals

while also making a difference in people's lives. I took the interview, got the job, and haven't had any regrets.

Fast-forward to today, and my original life plan that led to the Destiny Development Delta model has allowed me to achieve what I call successes regarding family, career, and community impact. I am striving to be the best and controlling my destiny, just as I envisioned it almost thirty years ago. I wrote this book to provide you with the inspiration and capability to achieve the destiny that you desire and deserve.

# **PRAISE FOR *MAKE YOUR DESTINY HAPPEN***

“This is more than a book—it’s a call to action for anyone ready to break free from limitation and take command of their future. With vulnerability, wisdom, and purpose, the author reveals a transformational model that empowers you to rise after failure, find clarity in chaos, and design a destiny that’s truly your own. Let this be your blueprint for a life of meaning, momentum, and mastery.”

—**Ken Morris, Founder & CEO KnectIQ Inc.**

“Leggett’s Destiny Development Delta Model is transformational genius in action. His framework doesn’t just inspire—it equips readers with practical tools to break free from the cycle of no destiny control. This book articulates what I’ve observed throughout my career: true leadership begins with leading yourself. An essential read for anyone serious about authoring their own “success to significance” destiny.”

—**Khwaja Shaik, CTO, Industry Market, IBM**

“Donzel Leggett is a transformational leader so he understands what it takes to create meaningful transformation—in business and in life. His approach is grounded, practical, and deeply inspiring. The results of his leadership are visible and impactful.”

—**Sylvia Wulf, Board Chair AquaBounty Technologies Inc**

“Through relatable stories, and a clearly articulated system, Donzel Leggett has created a powerful guide that is understandable, motivating and actionable. This book offers readers the tools and mindset to take charge of their lives and careers—at any stage—and to drive to the outcomes they seek.”

—**Susan Yashur, Retired Deloitte Global Deputy CEO  
and General Counsel**

“I’ve had the pleasure of knowing Donzel for over 15 years, and this book is a powerful reflection of the passion, clarity, and purpose he brings to everything he does. *Make Your Destiny Happen* is both inspiring and practical—a deeply personal roadmap to transformation rooted in lived experience and hard-earned wisdom. The Destiny Development Delta model is a timely and energizing guide for anyone ready to take control of their path and define success on their own terms.”

—Cheryl Bethune, Global HR Executive

“We are going through very challenging times in the world which also means opportunity. If we create awareness for our own values, aspirations, have a plan, it is much easier to adapt, learn and proceed. I definitely enjoyed and found similarities in our approach to life and how we work with a plan in Donzel Leggett’s book which reminded me one more time how authenticity is important in our daily approaches and thoughtful plans.”

—Umran Beba, August Leadership, Partner; Beba Foundation,  
Co- Founder; and Independent Board Director, Bakkavor

“Donzel Leggett, after decades of life experiences and leadership roles at a Fortune 500 company, understands the importance of planning for success. *Make Your Destiny Happen* is a must-read for anyone wanting to take control of their life.”

—Peter Cook, Managing Director, Investments

“I have known Donzel for years, and have had the opportunity to see him in action. In both the for-profit and not-for-profit worlds. His actions and his words always leave me inspired. I’m confident you will enjoy his words as you craft and chase your dreams.”

—Jeff Prouty, Chairman and Founder at The Prouty Project Inc.

“Donzel’s story of overcoming struggles through authentic positivity & modeled behavior is not only inspirational, but very relatable, as the parallels are rich to our very own storied lives. Thank you, Donzel, for continuing to remind us all, that much of our lives, really are in our own hands.”

—Ari Zainuddin, Chief Purpose Officer am\_\_+ brands



*Donzel A. Leggett* is the founder and principal of Destiny Development Delta LLC. He is an outspoken thought leader, an accomplished public speaker, an author, and a podcaster. Donzel's passion is coaching, developing, and mentoring people all over the world, and his vision and mission are to transform lives so that every person has the opportunity and capability to take control of their life and make their

destiny happen. He created the Destiny Development Delta model to do just that. Donzel is a believer in the idea that we must actively drive the future that we want; therefore, he not only invests his time in coaching and mentoring individuals but also in philanthropic interests to improve society and the world. Donzel serves in various leadership roles on several local, national, and global nonprofit boards and advisory councils. Prior to starting Destiny Development Delta LLC, Donzel completed a thirty-two-year career as a highly respected senior leader in corporate America, renowned for driving high levels of engagement, commitment, and breakthrough performance through inspiration as well as organizational and personal transformation on a global scale. Originally from Key West, Florida, Donzel holds both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in industrial technology from Purdue University, where he was an Academic All-America and three time Academic All-Big Ten football player. He also holds an MBA from Nova Southeastern University. He and his wife, Tracy, split their time between their homes in Southwest Florida and Chicagoland and have four adult children: Donnie, Sierra, Joanell, and Gianna.

# ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!



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