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Leaders Connect. In the context of the loneliness that many feel rising mental health challenges, and increasing concerns over toxic leadership, the time has come for a candid discussion about the skills leaders need to possess to address such challenges. At the core of each of these challenges is connection. If we're to have any chance at reversing the trends, then it's time for an honest conversation about what is getting in our way as leaders from building authentic, meaningful connections with our teams. The shift rests in language. The language we use as leaders can have a powerful and positive impact. Use the right words, and we can authentically connect, build trust, and empower others in a meaningful way. Use the wrong words, and the result is often disconnection, isolation, and destruction of the trust we've spent so much time and energy to build despite our best intentions otherwise. It's time to get smart on what drives disconnection and, more importantly, get skilled in fueling sincere, genuine connections.

Featured in Brené Brown's book *Dare to Lead* and on *60 Minutes* for her candid approach to leadership, Col. DeDe Halfhill, USAF Retired delivers a thought-provoking conversation about how the words we choose and the empathy we convey not only saves lives but deepens trust, increases resilience, and inspires courage in the organizations we lead. You will leave this presentation with new skills to grow as a trusted leader, connect on purpose, and engage with humanity in the workplace.
