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John Blanchard

Leadership Development Consultant,
Pittsburgh Pirates

John Blanchard is devoted to helping individuals and teams reach their full potential through personal growth and effective leadership.

With 28 years in college athletics—25 of them at the University of North Carolina—John served as Senior Associate Athletics Director for Student-Athlete Services, where he founded the groundbreaking Richard A. Baddour Carolina Leadership Academy, the first of its kind in college athletics. His leadership model has since been replicated nationwide. He also chaired committees for the ACC and NCAA, advancing collegiate sports leadership.

Now in his thirteenth year as a leadership development consultant for the Pittsburgh Pirates, John previously held the same role with the Kansas City Royals, continuing his work in team and leadership development.

A Stanford University graduate and former standout football player, John earned All-West Coast first team honors and later coached at Stanford and Cornell. He co-founded the NCAA Volunteers for Youth program and earned a master's in social work from San Diego State University, later directing a nonprofit in North Carolina and receiving the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for his service.

John and his wife, Dawn London Blanchard—founder and president of a college consulting firm—have been married for 46 years and are proud parents of three married children and five grandchildren.