

Achieving Goals Using Collaborative Resources

Veronica I. Oforlea, M.S.
Director, Foster & Kinship Care Education Program
California Community Colleges
Merced College

Introduction

Employers and Project Managers create teams instead of doing the task themselves because they believe that the members of a team working together can accomplish more than the same number of individuals working separately. We all know that teams have the potential to do more and do it more quickly; achieving those goals isn't a matter of getting together a group of people. It takes much more than doing it solo. We clearly know that it takes patience, time, skill, communication, organization and a strong sense of commitment.

The emergence of Project Management in the last decade has swept every company in North America. Along with Project Management has been the development and appreciation of the "Team". The development of "Workplace Teams" has played a pivotal role in solving corporate problems; improved quality; increased productivity and profits; improved organization; and achieved program goals.

Description of Session

The focus of this presentation will be to discuss with the participants methods to assist them in achieving program goals by means of using the following team building methods. They are as follows:

1. Campus partnerships;
2. Community partnerships;
3. State, local and county partnering;
4. Non/not-for-profit community based partnerships; and
5. Private organizations (corporate America)

While exploring the benefits of collaborations with diverse programs or organizations, we will examine creative ways to enhance working relationships with area partners. We will address the importance of strengthening relationships with state, county, local, public and private organizations.

Motivation

The motivation behind this presentation is derived from over eighteen years of working in programs with limited budgets and knowing that events are more rewarding when achieved with a working team. As the Director of the Foster & Kinship Care Education (FKCE) non-profit program, I find that in order for the team to best service the needs of our students, it is essential to collaborate with other programs to utilize their resources in order to achieve our goals. The foundation for this session is based on the principal that goal achievement can be met using collaborative resources with limited budgets. We will demonstrate how many goals, workshops, and conferences were implemented using a team approach. It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend all college programs to look within their campus for collaborative opportunities and in their community for partnerships. Most FKCE programs are located on community college campuses and provide educational support classes, workshops, and conferences designed to strengthen the skills of foster parents, kinship (relative) caregivers and professionals who work with disadvantaged youth. The program is supported by state funds from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. Our campus receives additional funding from our County Human Service Agency. Many programs on college campuses and in the community would benefit in a "Win-Win" collaborative relationship, as we have.

Collaborations

During the 2006-07 calendar year, our program sponsored, with the support of our collaborations, two conferences, eight workshops and over 350 classroom hours. Campus partnerships were formed with Community Service College 4 Kids, Continuing Education, the Child Development Center, the Bookstore, Reprographics and Independent Living programs. Community collaborations were formed with the County Office of Education Head Start, First 5, Boys & Girls Club, City Hall, Housing Authority, local community centers and the numerous independent organizations. Co-sponsorships were formed with Comcast Cable Television, The Central Valley Drum News Publication, Entré Amigo/Between Friends Newspaper and local merchants. Special projects awarded the program to receive support and participation from our Congressman, Education Board of Supervisor Chair, Assemblywoman, College President/Administrator, City Mayor and Council.

Objective of Session

The objective of the presentation is for the participants to do several of the following:

- Know their organization mission and goal;
- Identify goals to achieve;
- Have a clear definition of what is “teamwork”;
- Help the participant understand the historical trends;
- Brainstorm “out of the box” ideas;
- Identify the right people to recruit for the right reasons;
- Learn to identify the collaborative goal they want to achieve;
- Learn to identify and utilize resources needed to accomplish goal;
- Have a clear definition of what the team is and how it works = “teamwork”;
- Help identify your *Internal Team Members*;
- Learn to assess the progress of the program’s goals;
- Learn to identify program saboteurs;
- Monitor the final hours before *Program “Take Off” Countdown*;
- Monitor/assess program during hours, *Program Start “Lift Off”*, and throughout the day; and
- After hours, obtain *Goal Day Feedback*.

Handout and Resources

- ✚ PowerPoint Presentation
- ✚ DeJanasz-Dowd-Schneider: Interpersonal Skills in Organizations, “Group Skills: Understanding and Working in Teams.”
- ✚ Simple Truths www.simpletruths.com
- ✚ Joel Barker: Business Paradigms
- ✚ Model the Way Personal Assessment www.viastrengths.com

Contact information,

- ❖ Veronica I. Oforlea, M.S.
oforlea.v@mccd.edu or scgc770@yahoo.com
(209) 384-6399 or (209) 233-1005