

THE REFLECTION

The Maroon & White Leadership Program's Newsletter



Project Management

By Princess Tate

Productivity, efficiency, delegation, and conflict are four major points to consider when discussing project management. With any company, organization, or project it may seem easier to think about the end product or the big picture, but the topic of discussion was focused on the process of reaching the goal or completing the tasks.

Professionals from around campus with experience on leading various projects shared with the Fellows general principles associated with project management, but were also able to incorporate personal experiences on how they achieved success with their various projects. One point that many of the professionals mentioned in their small groups was delegation. They mentioned how everyone working in their roles was a key aspect that helped set the foundation for productivity and efficiency.

They also encouraged the Fellows to realize that there are various styles and formulas when it comes to various projects, and that there is not one overarching strategy that guarantees success for each project. With each project comes the opportunity to manage a new set of individuals and allow past experiences to serve a starting point for each project.

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The author talks about how great companies fuel innovation through diversity.

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By: James P. Lewis

He talks about the unique skills necessary for leading people in a project environment.

LEP Spotlight: Catherine Douglass

By Princess Tates

Catherine, when starting the program, mentioned that she attended multiple signature and premiere events that she was not necessarily interested in because she was trying to rush through the process. In spending more time, however, with her coach and in the program she realized that finding opportunities of interest are not only easier to reflect on, but help in building a more valuable experience. She thanks her coach, Mrs. Hapes, for showing her that she does not have to “fit the mold to be successful.”

As a member of the Maroon & White Program, Catherine has been able to step out of her comfort zone and into a leadership position on the Advisory Board where she serves as the Development/External Relations Chair. Catherine is excited about this opportunity to work alongside her fellow leaders whom she says have also become her best friends. Induction ceremony is around the corner and Catherine can't wait to share her accomplishments and see the ones of her peers. For Fellows who will soon be apart of the LEP process she encourages you to remember that you only get out what you put in. In her advice to all Fellows in the program, she encourages you to take advantage of how “unique and amazing this program truly is.” She notes that you are a part of the program for a reason, and hopes that you embrace the qualities that make you an “incredible leader.”



Society Spotlight: Jill Jackson

By Princess Tates

In her time at A&M, Jill participated in a variety of organizations and programs. During her senior year, she led the AFROTC where she was responsible for the training and development of over 400 cadets. Coming into college, Jill set goals for herself, and through the Maroon & White Program and other organizations, she was able to “create a plan and stick to it.” However, by stick to it she does not mean verbatim. One of her biggest lessons that she learned while in the program was to develop a robust plan that is not exempt from flexibility and revision. She notes that if you're not willing to be flexible, “you can sink your own boat.”

Jill currently is going through undergraduate pilot training with the US Air Force at Laughlin AFB, Texas. At the end of this intense year long program, she notes her excitement to , “graduate with my wings” and embark upon her career as a pilot in the Air Force. Jill encourages current Fellows to not be afraid to pursue their passions, even if they don't think there will be any leadership benefits. She mentions that we live in a society where having a balanced life in underrated, and believes that taking brakes and pursuing what you love will help in being more well rounded and “happier in the end.”



Defining Diversity

By Princess Tates

It is evident that the workforce, schools, organizations, etc. are becoming more diverse as the years progress. With this realization, the topic of diversity is one that many are engaging in conversations about and giving more attention to. To kick off the year, the Maroon and White fellows, led by our speakers Varselles Cummings and Dr. Marisa Suhm looked diligently at the meaning of diversity as it relates to leadership and their personal lives.

The fellows first participated in an activity led by Dr. Suhm where they were asked to answer some general questions using just their knowledge. Out of approximately 20 questions, the average amount that people were able to get right was around eight. She then told the Fellows to get into groups of two or three and answer the same questions. The amount of questions answered correctly for the groups showed a significant increase. The point that Dr. Suhm was able to drive home with this activity is that diversity within groups increases access to more knowledge, experiences, and resources.

To wrap up the retreat, Mr. Cummings had various identities around the room such as race, national origin, age, etc. He would then ask of to stand by these various identities based on the question he asked. For example, one of his questions was “which identify do you think most about?” The Fellows spread out across the room and a couple shared why they chose a specific identity. In this activity the Fellows were able to see that everyone's various identities, some more than others, played a major role in their decision making, comfortability, and navigation of certain tasks and issues.

Upcoming Leadership Events for Society Members

Houston

Success and Leadership Dinner
Jun 7, 7:00 PM
Keynote Speaker: Logan Stout

Austin

Inclusive Global Leadership
Apr 11, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM:
Leadership techniques that transcend global and cultural boundaries FREE

Dallas

Invest in Yourself
Mar 23, 10:00 AM
Taking a thoughtful approach to health and wellness of young professionals

San Antonio

Leadership Discovery Series
Mar 19, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM
Explores impact of themes on leadership