Navigating Team Communication in a Virtual Environment

The loss of daily routines and physical connection and presence makes effective, timely communication even more critical, that may leave employees questioning:

- What am I to be doing right now?
- What is my focus?

According to Dr. Rachel Cubas-Wilkinson, Senior Consultant at The Myers-Briggs Company, it is crucial during times of change for teams to create a dialogue about the mission, goals and purpose for your department and the University. These conversations should serve to create a shared understanding, allowing all members the ability to connect their work to the mission. Other topics to discuss openly include:

- Task distribution
- Equality of workload
- Resources needed to do the work
- Clear organizational processes
- Removal of bottlenecks
- How to best mediate distance & maintain connection

With consistent support, accountability and communication employees can receive the structure and focus that was previously provided by the physical workplace environment.

For more information on this topic please watch the free, previously recorded webinar, Virtual Teams and the Critical Role of Effective Communication.

Manager’s Corner

6 Leadership Principles to Guide You During Crisis

People want to know what their leaders are thinking and feeling. This didn’t start with the crisis. This was an existing reality – it just took the crisis to make people aware of it. This post, 6 Leadership Principles To Guide You During Crisis, reviews principles that are designed to build high-performance teams, leaders and cultures focused on developing resilient, agile and courageous individuals.

LinkedIn Learning

Ergonomics 101

“Ergonomics” means creating a healthy work environment. As many of us are working from home, we may want to consider how healthy our physical setup is to avoid common problems like back ache and eye strain. You may find some helpful tips in this course by certified ergonomics specialist Barb Phillips. Barb’s course is a collection of several short videos, so you can jump to the topic you need.

Soft Skills:

What are they and why are they important?

Soft skills are essential interpersonal skills that enhance our ability to get things done in our current jobs and to take on new opportunities ahead. Effective utilization of these skills can elevate an employee’s contributions, and help pave the way for new career challenges in the future. Soft skills are foundational and every career-minded individual should invest time into building them.

Click here to explore recommended soft skills training courses by category.

Working After COVID-19: What to Expect

The internet is overflowing with predictions on what life and work will look like after the pandemic. There is no doubt that some things will change, yet history has shown us time and again that we are extremely inaccurate when it comes to predicting the future.

Will we eventually default to our old ways or learn from everything we experienced? I guess we will never know until we get there. Yet some changes are already taking place and these will have a profound impact on how work happens. Unless we embrace them now, it is likely that we get on board a little too late.

Click here to learn about a few things that are changing in the workplace.
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