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Management: A Self-Reflection

Everywhere you look there is a company being run by individuals who possess qualities such as leadership, self-motivation, confidence and reliability. These people are motivated by the idea of a smoothly run business and are determined to fix any conflicts that may arise on the way. Throughout the BOH4M course, the skills and mindsets of every professional manager were dissected and learnt so that they could be applied during real life projects and situations. Although from the outside looking in, a managers job may seem easy, the reality of it is that there are many underlying causes of stress and dysfunction that as a manager, must be dealt with on a professional level. Skills I learned and improved upon such as using personality for the best in the workplace, leadership, and team dynamics all help me realize that although being a manager is stressful at times, my hard work and determination to succeed makes me a natural leader.

Grade 9 Retreat was the first opportunity to show what kind of a leader I was. Considering this project occurred at the very beginning of the school year, not much was learned yet about the skills a manager has. This project was, in my opinion, the building blocks to understanding everything that a manager must go through on a day to day basis. It also allowed me to understand what kind of leader I was from the start. During this project, I learned that I am a very hands on leader and that in order to feel involved in a project, I need to be physically involved in it. Working in the kitchen for example, and getting food ready for breakfast, lunch and dinner made me feel like I was getting things done. I also learned that as a leader I enjoy having a role based on decision making. Youthrive was another major project where I was able to show my leadership. By being a part of the group who physically made the product, it was able to jump start the process of getting product out to customers and to begin making back the money for our loan. As a manager, leadership skills are critical. The responsibilities of being a manager include being in charge of others and their actions. Having these leadership qualities means that you need to be able to give people roles and be able to manage what other employees are doing while working.

Throughout this course I have been able to see how my personality can affect the workplace in a positive manner. I've learned that my personality is very much a go-getter type. I am the type of person who gets restless when there is work to be done that hasn't been started yet. By being the go-getter type of person that I am, projects and work done in the workplace gets done quickly and efficiently. Working in the kitchen at Grade 9 Retreat was a great way for me to show my personality in a work environment. By being someone who made the food, made bunk snacks, as well as help with breakfast in the morning, I was very involved with what was being done at the retreat. The Youthrive project was another great way for my go-getting personality to thrive. By being able to be apart of the process of making the product, I was also able to be involved in how it was made, looked and was presented to customers. All of these things are very important to me as well because in my opinion, a professional looking business makes money. The Stress Management seminar was a way to be involved while in the classroom environment. In this seminar I was able to be involved by creating activities to do as a class as well as have a role based on decision making. Personality is a large aspect of whether or not a person will make a good manager. By being open minded, having a flexible mindset and being respectful, a workplace will boom thanks to a manager with these characteristics.

Without teamwork, a successful business cannot thrive. A group of individuals who do not work well or make good decisions together will not be motivated in the workplace nor will they be able to solve conflict easily. Without teamwork, a business will not grow to the potential that it has to be. Grade 9 Retreat was successful based on teamwork alone. By being able to work well in a group environment, things such as making the taco dinner, handing out bunk snacks, helping with breakfast and making the campfire snacks were done with ease and efficiency. The Community Project wasn't as big as the Grade 9 Retreat, however, teamwork was still very important. Without teamwork, snacks such as the water and pop would not have been purchased, and a successful dance would not have been the outcome of that night. By working as a team, planning the dance as well as having roles for everyone to do was very easy. Youthrive was crucial to have good teamwork in order for decisions to be made and for things such as planning to be done. Because the Youthrive was a much smaller group, making sure I got along well with all of my group was very important. If someone wouldn't have gotten along with another person in the group, our success and work efficiency would not have been as good as it was. By working as a team, we were able to create the product, as well as distribute and get parts of the project done well and on time. Making sure everyone in a group has a set role is very important to the success of teamwork. If one person in a group does all of the work, it defeats the purpose of being a “team”. The Stress Management seminar is a good example of this because some people in the group took on more roles than others. For this reason, some people in the group did not know what was going on, or took on smaller roles and hardly said much during the presentation. For this exact reason, the course taught me it is good to pick people for a group project that you can work well with in a team. Otherwise, things do not run as smoothly as they should.

During the course of this class, I learned a lot of valuable lessons about becoming a manger. Before this class, I would go into my part-time job and look at managers as people who didn't do very much. Now, my thoughts on this have changed due to the new found respect that I have for them. When it comes to dealing with customers, stress, conflict, as well as using leadership skills, teamwork skills and their own personality's to help keep the workplace in order, managers are pros. Although being a manager has its positives and negatives, I personally see the good things being a manager has to offer. For these reasons, I personally believe that my hard work and determination would allow me to be a very efficient manager.