EDTC 801 Summer Institute in Educational Technology Leadership I
Summer II 2017

Project 2: Individual Contribution
Cohort 5 Showcase

Individual Contribution Log

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Contribution Team: Logo & Institution/Individual Content

Description of Contributions:

During the initial class discussion, I collaborated with fellow team members on the design of the logo. We wanted to incorporate number 5, the number of our cohort, into logo design and came up with the idea of 5 Star Cohort. We thought that it nicely combined the number of our cohort and the quality of work associated with 5 stars. While one of the team members was drawing quick sketches of the logo, the rest of us focused on finding the good words that would abbreviate into the word S.T.A.R.S. and would reflect the essence of this program. We came up with the following words:

S – Synchronizing
T – Technology
A -- Academics
R – Research
S – Systematically

We felt pretty good about creating this acronym, which later did make its way into a logo. However, it became the secondary logo, which only briefly appeared in the video and was not displayed on the website.

I felt that I could contribute more to the group project and offered to create a collage from the clickable logos of the organizations where cohort members work. I even gathered a list of logos and links onto the shared document, but stopped short of creating a collage based on the following considerations:

1)   In many cases, the web site logos were copyrighted material of the organizations and we had no formal permissions to use them

2)   Some team members preferred not to disclose their organizations or connect NJCU program to their institutional page.

I was glad that I was able to discuss both points with my fellow cohort members prior to doing any more work. It felt good to realize that even though the idea of the logo collage seemed to be great initially, abandoning it did not make me angry or sad. I was able to understand their privacy concerns and recognize potential violations of the copyrighted material. I must say it was a great learning experience for me.

My other contribution was coming up with an idea of creating a Kahoot! quiz for the members of Cohorts 3 and 4. After listening to our song and spending several minutes on the website, Cohorts 3 and 4 took a five-minute Kahoot! quiz on how well they got to know Cohort 5. However, my version of Kahoot! has never made it to "production". Here is what happened: I ran the idea of creating a Kahoot! by the team leader; he approved; I created sample questions; he acknowledged; I spent time creating the actual Kahoot! but was declined because the leader already created his own version that was going to be used during the presentation. It did not bother me that my version of Kahoot! was not used, but the lack of timely communication negatively impacted me.

My Weaknesses:

Besides the incident with Kahoot!, there were other occurrences of miscommunication or lack of communications from the leadership side, where a number of people did unnecessary work, or simply were declined their input because someone else has already done it. It made me think about the importance of communication between the members of the group, and especially more so, after preparing a Team Leadership approach presentation. On multiple occasions, our Project Leadership did not come at par with setting norms or channels for communication, but now in retrospect, I can see that I, as a team member, could have also initiated this process. I could have asked more questions about task distributions (which turned out to be quite uneven), followed up on progress and completion, and included all members of the cohort in the communication process. As I learned from this experience, any member of the team can try on the attributes of leadership and promote healthy communication among the team.

My Strengths:

In addition to my strengths in generating ideas, working well with others and taking initiatives, I feel that my gained knowledge is also becoming one of my strength. As I am reflecting on my own performance within the 17-people team, I am making mental notes for my own areas of improvement as well as team-level performance and collaboration. To me, both aspects are equally important.