Online Workgroups: Tips and Tricks

More and more, instructors are requiring group work in online courses. A leadership curriculum without some teamwork would be a disservice to our students. Working in groups is a great way to learn about effective teams, learn about virtual collaboration tools, and get to know your classmates. There are some challenges to surviving the online environment however. Here are some quick tips:

1. Bond with your team members. Encourage your teammates to introduce themselves and even post pictures. Be open about your interests, strengths and weaknesses.

2. Use the online tools available to you within the courses management system.

3. Be a team player. Divide responsibility and hold up your end of the bargain. It may be necessary to appoint a leader but it is essential that you break the project into individual tasks and be sure each group member has an equal share of work.

4. Keep in touch. Develop a communication plan for your team and be sure you contact one another as the project takes shape.

5. Acknowledge conflict. When you are working with two or more people, there are bound to be some disagreements about any project. It is best to acknowledge conflict (it often appears as excessive criticism or disinterest), and try to achieve a reasonable solution.

Registration Dates (Summer/Fall 2009)

Registration for Summer and Fall classes begins today. Take some time to review the courses being offered and be sure to register early.

You will need to have permits to register for class, contact Amy at johnsoad@etsu.edu with advisement questions or to request permits.

Summer/Fall 2009 Culminating Projects

Special Announcement: If you are planning to graduate Summer 2009, you will need to complete a short proposal regarding your project topic by May 15th. If you are planning to graduate Fall 2009, you will need to complete a short proposal regarding your project topic by July 1th. This proposal should include the following information:

1. Identify the topic and purpose of your professional project. What are the research questions you are trying to answer or the problems you are trying to address through your project?

2. Explain the process by which you selected the topic. Why did you select this topic for your project?

3. Explain how the topic of your professional project is related to your MPS program of study, including an explanation of how the project makes use of the knowledge you gained from your MPS courses.

If you have questions about the project proposal or would like to set up a meeting to discuss your project, please contact the Cross-Disciplinary Studies office at 423-439-4223 or johnsoad@etsu.edu