The Enemies of Leadership

Collin College played host to the December 2014 CLARA meeting at the college’s Collin Higher Education Center (CHEC) facilities.

Collin College Interim President Colleen Smith opened the morning with an engaging workshop on ten enemies of leadership.

CLARA then had the opportunity to tour the CHEC facilities. Joe Butler, Associate Vice President for Academic Outreach at Collin College, and Kandi Hoye-Nixon, Coordinator of Partnerships at CHEC, facilitated the tour.

Alicia Huppe, Dean of Enrollment and Student Success at Collin College and CLARA alum, discussed the role of social media in higher education.

Coverage of chapters 4 and 5 of The Leadership Challenge by CLARA Teams rounded out the day.

The next meeting is January 30, 2015 at the annual Spring Leadership Conference at Collin College Spring Creek Campus.
The Enemies of Leadership

What Holds You Back From Being an Effective Leader?

“Leadership is all about integrity,” said Colleen Smith, Interim President of Collin College. To be an effective leader, we must do some reflection and analyze our philosophical approach to leadership.

Dr. Smith pointed out that most leaders today have difficulty making decisions based on logic, experience, and understanding because our laws and policies have become almost paralyzing.

Policies should be less restrictive, she suggested, and should allow us to be creative and innovative.

Dr. Smith listed 10 attitudes and mindsets which she labelled as enemies of leadership. In order to be effective leaders, we need to learn to think for ourselves, believe in ourselves, admit our mistakes, and be willing to take risks.

The ten enemies that keep us from becoming effective leaders are:

- Imitation
- Prejudice
- Ignorance
- Duplicity
- Apathy
- Indecision
- Arrogance
- Inefficiency
- Rigidity
- Mediocrity

Effective Use of Social Media in Higher Education

Everyone has heard of social media—Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, Pinterest…and more—but how well do we know how to use these resources to promote our institutions?

Alicia Huppe, Dean of Enrollment and Student Success, Collin College, took a little time to discuss the value social media has for higher education.

Dr. Huppe described the various types of social media available, and gave some practical suggestions for using each form of social media, such as “7 Ideas for Using Hashtags in the Classroom.”

Dr. Huppe said there was a 100% usage of Facebook by universities and colleges.

She also pointed out the risks and dangers of social media, referring to the book “What Happens In Vegas Stays On YouTube.”

Different institutions have different policies on the use of social media, and any use of social media has to fit within the established parameters.

There are also legal questions regarding social media. Can employers ask for social media logins/passwords? Can HR google potential hires? These and other issues are being discussed and in some cases litigated.

Dr. Huppe concluded with a discussion of how to use social media to establish, protect, and strengthen your school’s online brand.
Campus Tours

Collin Higher Education Center

Collin County is the largest, most populous county in Texas without a four-year college or university. To fill this void, Collin College opened the Collin Higher Education Center (CHEC) in 2010 to provide Collin County students access to junior and senior level classes and graduate degrees without having to travel long distances to attend classes.

Collin College has partnered with the University of North Texas, Texas Woman’s University, Texas A&M University Commerce, and University of Texas Dallas to provide higher education opportunities to Collin County residents.

Associate Vice President of Academic Outreach Joe Butler and Coordinator of Partnerships Kandi Hoye-Nixon shared with CLARA some of the history and current operations of the Collin Higher Education Center.

CLARA then had the opportunity to tour the facilities and see the CHEC in action.

Joe Butler, Associate Vice President of Academic Outreach at Collin College (top photo) and Kandi Hoye Nixon, Coordinator of Partnerships at the Collin Higher Education Center (above), provide an overview of the CHEC operations and give a tour of the facilities (left).
Chapter 4: Envision the Future

Cassandra, Maggie, Pamela and Sharon presented Chapter 4 of *The Leadership Challenge*: “Inspire a Shared Vision”.

The team combined the information in the chapter with information from another book entitled *The Energy Bus* by Jon Gordon.

Discussion questions for the presentation included “How do you meet the challenge of staying current with trends and changes in community colleges while also envisioning the future?”, “What tools or methods do you use to reflect on your past to help imagine the future?”, “How do you create an environment where employees can bring their purpose to work?”, and “What are ways that you can lessen the difficulties to attain success?”

Individual groups discussed the questions, then reported their findings to the group at large.

The discussion concluded with a brief overview of the article “Change or Die”.

Chapter 5: Enlist Others

Mehrnaz, Jennifer, Cheryl, Chris and Dax led the second textbook discussion of the afternoon, covering Chapter 5 of *The Leadership Challenge*: “Enlist Others.”

To illustrate the importance of inspiring a shared vision and enlisting others to accomplish that vision, each CLARA participant in attendance was given a sheet of paper with an image printed on it.

No one was told what the image represented, or how it related to what was printed on the other sheets of paper. Each individual was then instructed to describe their piece of the puzzle to others and to try to discover how they each fit into the picture as a whole.

Everyone wandered around at first, confused and in the dark as to what they were doing and what they were trying to accomplish.

Gradually, through communication and discussion, individuals began to identify others who were a part of their picture and shared their overall objective. People began to cluster as they found others who shared their purpose, and eventually the entire exercise came into focus.
CLARA in Action