Lessons Learned

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In my last class, I was teamed up with two very knowledgeable individuals. One apparently had a background on projects already and was very driven, talented, and smart with PowerPoint. The other was an IT person, who was extremely helpful, patient, and knowledgeable. I was somewhat intimidated by their knowledge, my skills run in different avenues, I am extremely mechanically inclined. I am good seeing things created in their completeness, before it has been built or repaired. I am good building and repairing structures of aircraft and buildings as well. I think I write well too, it seems to flow when I decide on a subject. This is what I learned from my last class.

In this class I have learned that although I am not as computer savvy as some, I have different skills that relate to many projects. While in the process of working on one of our assignments, I had the opportunity to look at some of the Project Management job postings in my geographical area. I did not realize that it was supposed to be Global search until I reread the assignment and chose a completely different task. I noticed the number of postings was in the hundreds. Many of those job openings were in construction; I have some experience with building homes. I owned and managed my construction business for twelve years. I knew the two interests would work together very well, but I had no idea there was such a need for PMP individuals in that field of work. So not only do I have opportunities in the aviation field, but in construction as well. I also have an A&P license and many years of experience on a variety of aircraft.

The second thing I learned, while I was conducting my interview of a project manager, I learned a great deal about communication with people. Our discussion was about international projects, that communication is more than just words. Everyone seems to have problems communicating. Communication is about voice inflections, language, and even body movements. There is so much about communication everyone is still learning, as am I. If this were not true then why do we have so much miscommunication and misunderstood directions?

The Program/Project Manager, that I interviewed, stressed that body language from different people is key to see in person. Having face-to-face meetings with the people that you work with is very important especially if there is a language barrier that is being dealt with during a project. I did not really think this was so important until he explained some of the problems that misunderstanding body language can cause, and this can only be understood through spending time studying the people while communicating with them. This cannot be stressed enough, learn to study body language while communicating with different cultures.

It is questions like this that cause me to strive for better communication skills, even when others do not try to find ways to improve themselves. This is the kind of thinking that enables people to grow and seek solutions to problems that exist. This is what I have learned in this class that everyone should find ways to learn to better communicate with each other. In this way, people will become more productive, not just Project Managers.

Reference:

Gray, C. & Larson, E. (2014). Project Management, The Managerial Process. McGraw-Hill Education. New York, New York