

# **Asian American Leadership Forum**

## **October 1 - 2, 2010**

### **Workshop Descriptions**

#### Bridging Eastern and Western Cultural

This workshop will aid in developing the participant understanding of the different business cultures compared the Asia and West. Gain insight and learn the rules of engagement of cross cultural business from three notable speakers. For professionals, enhance your business relationships and effectiveness when working in Asia and/or the United States. The goal of this workshop is to show how one would develop the correct approaches for engaging with others of a different cultural background. These sets of rules will be based on the understanding of integrity and respect of backgrounds, work ethics, and professionalism.

#### Definitely NOT Networking

Do you have a stack of other peoples business cards, a ton of facebook or linkedin friends and haven't really seen the benefit on a professional level, then maybe its time to rethink the approach. Building strong personal networks doesn't just happen at the water cooler or by twittering. Personal networks are the product of a carefully constructed and intentional process. Definitely NOT Networking is an executive style workshop providing attendees with the proper skills to find the right kind of connections, develop meaning full relationships, and to openly and mutually leverage their benefits. Based on the six degrees of separation principle, individuals can utilize their current relationship to strength and multiply their own personal networks in meaningful ways. Definitely NOT Networking provides a more effective model for building a personal network. Simply, save time and get results.

#### Discover Your Inner Leader

This experiential workshop allows participants to discover their styles as a leader in a role play scenario. Sara Lee Corporation's Leadership profile serves as a basis for the exercise. A short presentation on the Leadership Profile begins the session with both broad principles and actual behavioral traits of "what it means to be a leader" at most Fortune 100 companies. Participants of the workshop will then be placed into teams / groups to role play given scenarios which involve engaging with one another to resolves common corporate challenges. After this engagement process participants will then be involved in a discussion to see how their behaviors led the outcome of the group. The workshop leverages adult learning techniques to have participants experience the leadership dynamics when working with others. Personal relationships developed by the team affects the group's culture. The participants will also get discover the inner

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leadership skills they possess by leading and engaging ideas during the team building event.

#### Dress for Success

This workshop will cover topics which are based on American business professional image. A panel of notable speakers will be covering three prime topics which will include dress attire in three professional situations: "The interview", "The work place", and "Professional social event".

#### Extra Extra Read All About It: Crafting Stories for the Media

A workshop to help individuals learn best practices in pitching stories and becoming a go-to resource for media. The workshop will help individuals improve their skills in identifying topics, crafting a message, and outreaching to media contacts. The format of this workshop will be in two related parts. The first is a panel discussion from Media professionals with a diverse group of print, television, and radio journalist. The panel will share the best practices of pitching stories and expose participants to the key elements of a suitable story. The second part will be interactive, as participants will practice for pitching stories and get direct feedback from our expert panel. Ultimately the workshop is to develop media savvy leaders who can utilize the media to expose critical issues or celebrate successes.

#### Mr. Smith Goes to Washington: The Art of Legislative Visits

Illinois' legislators control billions of dollars in resources and create policies that affect all of our lives. How well are they doing for the Asian American community, and how well are we doing at informing them about our needs? While there are many rules that govern how non-profits can interact with legislators, non-profits are still able to engage their legislators through education. This workshop will build participants' skills on how to effectively engage legislators through developing relationships, education, and creating effective agendas.

#### Executive Presence: Speak Up and Speak Out

There's a common perception that Asians are culturally programmed to speak only when spoken to and to defer to others in group settings. The communication literature contrasts the Asian-American communication style—characterized by indirect logical structure, subtle messaging, and minimal affect—with the European American style--

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direct, outspoken, and animated. While communication style is as personal as it is cultural, unconscious verbal and non-verbal behaviors may reinforce these perceptions. As a result, some Asians and Asian Americans may find themselves overlooked as key players, and/or inappropriately judged as lacking in leadership qualities.

Drawing from a variety of disciplines—communication research, public speaking, theatre, singing, and even dance choreography—this highly interactive seminar takes a look at the values of respect, humility, and face, as well as the verbal and non-verbal behaviors that manifest based on these values. Participants learn to use skills for asserting and presenting themselves, so they gain both a “share of voice” and the recognition they deserve. They learn to balance persuasion with rapport and relationship.

#### The Happy Leader

The Happy Leader © model comprises four dimensions each of which represents a key area of leadership skill. These skills include awareness of one’s own strengths and our unique way of viewing the world, using the teams’ diversity as strength, developing and sustaining satisfaction, and investing back in the organization.

#### Understanding Our Histories: Promoting a Common Agenda

An interactive presentation on the importance of learning one’s cultural history as well as the histories of those around us. The presentation includes an overview of Asian American History and intersections of other ethnic histories such as Latino, African American, American Indian, Eastern European, and Middle Eastern. Additionally, participants will learn how to engage in unpacking personal and community history through a method called community cartography. Participants can utilize this method to develop a community of learners and collaborators. The field of early childhood education will be used as an example to demonstrate how common agendas have been established to promote community development among multicultural communities.

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