My Leadership Role: A Course Reflection

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I have selected my team’s Arts Alive SDSU assessment report as my artifact of learning for ED795B this spring 2015. This assessment report has helped me to achieve the course learning outcomes 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, and 10 and program learning outcomes 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10. The two outcomes I feel as though I achieved the most was program learning outcomes 5 and 10. Throughout the entire assessment project, we were required to communicate effectively with our team members, as well as professional faculty and staff on campus. Especially through the writing of the assessment plan, I have noticed areas where I can definitely improve my writing skills in order to meet the guidelines of APA formatting and citing, as well as making sure the language I use is objective and not judging. Once the latter was pointed out to me, I went back to correct and update the language in order to be more inclusive. In addition, having to present our assessment plan to our class and answer questions related to our project helped me to feel confident that I truly understand outcomes based assessment and the ways or methods which can be utilized or tweaked if I were to do this project over again (PLO 10).

Throughout this year-long course, and specifically during the spring semester, I have had the opportunity to really dig deep into identifying, learning, and utilizing my leadership skills during tough situations. I have felt attacked in a number of occasions where I have had to defend myself, my work, and my commitment to my team during this project. I have also learned through my discussions with faculty, that I need to learn to speak up and articulate how and why I am feeling a certain way. This has been the most useful information I have been able to experience and learn during this project. Not only how to handle or conduct myself in the face of microaggressions, but to also be clear with what I have been asked to do and what responsibilities should be shared amongst our group (PLO 5). I know I am definitely a strong
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willed and passionate person which can sometimes intimidate people or put people on the
defensive.

Through my experience with working on this assessment project, I have had to have a
number of uncomfortable and tough conversations. I feel as though this experience has
definitely helped me to reach my personal and professional goals of being a great leader and
supervisor. There are going to be many uncomfortable and tough conversations I will have with
student assistants, as well as professional staff. Being able to hold my composure, actively listen
and hear what the person is saying to me, as well as how to respond accordingly will help me to
maintain the professionalism required to be a great leader. I also want to make sure I use my
words carefully and not make people feel as though I am attacking them or placing all blame on
them. Many microaggressions are actually done unconsciously and it is only through awareness
and educating people will this new form of racism be changed in our society. I hope I will
continue to use the skills I have learned in this course during my professional career; especially
in order to assess whether or not my program(s) are being effective and meeting the goals they
were created to meet.