

Session: Competencies of the Boundary Spanner

Facilitator:

Jenny Baechler, Faculty of Management, Dalhousie University

Description:

As professionals and managers at Dalhousie University, our work has a significant impact on Dalhousie, Halifax, and the Province. We are frequently tasked with collaborating across departments and with external organizations in an effort to innovate, increase efficiencies and provide better service. The more successful we are at collaborations across institutional boundaries, the greater the impact we will have on the prosperity of Dalhousie and of Nova Scotia. Boundary spanners are key individuals who move collaborations forward as they work to overcome essential differences to achieve results. This session will explore the skills and competencies of the boundary spanner. Participants will have the opportunity to understand what role they play in collaborations, what assets they already possess and where they have potential for growth as they progress toward becoming boundary spanners. More experienced boundary spanners will begin to recognize their strengths, so that they can mentor others, lead by conscious example, and become aware of a valuable skill set that can benefit their communities.

Biography:

Jenny Baechler is the Associate Director of the Corporate Residency MBA program and a Lecturer for the Rowe School of Business at Dalhousie University. Her research and teaching integrate the fields of public administration, peace/conflict studies, international development studies and management frameworks in complexity, creativity and design thinking to explore opportunities for and barriers to cross-boundary collaboration in complex environments. Jenny's teaching is focused primarily on a 22-month Personal & Professional Effectiveness (PPE) curriculum offered to MBA students, which provides them with an opportunity to explore topics, and skill areas related to leadership development and career management. In addition to PPE, she coordinates Management Without Borders, a graduate class offered in the Faculty of Management that calls on students from various professional and academic backgrounds to explore broad issues in management while honing skills in interdisciplinary team dynamics, conflict resolution, collaboration, stakeholder engagement and project management.