

St. Cloud Business Community

April 13, 2015

1. What skills, knowledge, and values can a CSB education help to shape that are most important in today's workplace?

- Benedictine values – sense of community and teamwork.
- Ability to research, analyze, synthesize. Need problem solving skills.
- Dress, email skills, etc. – very basic to effective workforce participation
- Communication skills – writing skills to public speaking.
- Keeping up with relevant skills, changing with the times
- Strong women
- Ability to think and work collaboratively
- Ability to learn
- Relate and connect seemingly unrelated themes and ideas. [this is a synthesizing skill]
- The ability to have a broad perspective, an ability to take the perspective of another person. Extremely important to be able to work with others to find solutions. Must be able to work effectively in an environment where there are a diversity of viewpoints. Even if you can't create a perspective, you must be open to a variety of perspectives.
- Central Minnesota is becoming more racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse. Must have mutual respect for all cultures as the world changes.
- Resilience
- There is demand for technical skills. Must put liberal arts together with those technical skills.
- Being well-rounded – in terms of interests, experience, and perspective – is very valuable to the world.
- Level of self-confidence is key.
- Well-developed values are important. Benedictine values at CSB are relevant in the work force and in professional positions.

2. What factors facilitate or inhibit women's leadership in the workplace?

- Facilitate: Aligning yourself with people in an organization who will help you move. Most often, that means women will need to have male mentors to help them move up.
- Facilitate: Self promotion, self marketing. In an age of social media, need to be out there talking about yourself and your ideas.
- Facilitate: Ability to fail is really important. Failure allows you to develop ownership of what you are doing. Cannot be perfect all of the time. Saying that you can fail is an important part of leadership.
- Facilitate: SALD does a great job helping organizations, clubs, and teams prepare leaders.
- Facilitate: Women need to know themselves, where their gifts are, and recognize other people's gifts.

- Facilitate: Need to recognize, embrace, and cultivate your own potential. Important for women to develop who they are and where they are going. Need to be assertive – neither passive nor aggressive (S. Mary Reuter class)
- Inhibit: Confidence gaps between men and women. Can we narrow those gaps?
- Inhibit: Passivity is a vice.
- Inhibit: Need to learn to balance work and family issues, responsibilities, and pressures.
- Facilitate: CSB is uniquely positioned to help women succeed (women leading, guiding, and mentoring women). Strong female role models and mentors are important.
- Facilitate: Women don't have to act like to be seen and understood as leaders.

3. What must CSB do in partnership with St. Cloud community to feel fully collaborative and energized about preparing Bennies for the workplace?

- Internships, apprenticeships, faculty and academic departments engaging with local businesses. Likely need a guide to help make those engagements easier. Define responsibilities of students and business partners.
- Is there the same kind of connection between alumnae here that there is in the Twin Cities? More structured activities to build relationships.
- Have a new tool in place in St. Cloud to facilitate – JobSpot (a tool to facilitate connections). We have many opportunities in this region. JobSpot facilitates those connections of students, colleges, and employers. Greater St. Cloud JobSpot – employment opportunities, internships, externships, etc. www.greaterstcloudjobspot.com.
- Very important for CSB to very present in the local community. Not just internally focused or focused on the Twin Cities. Need to be connected to community and business leaders.
- Position CSB as a resource for the community. There are many opportunities to participate in St. Cloud activities.
- Need to know who to call at CSB when looking for a resource, assistance, etc. Our resources, our expertise, our process for engaging people.

Closing Comments

- CSB has a unique opportunity to develop and accelerate the confidence of young women.
- What can community leaders do to make sure that CSB wants to stay local and be an active part of the local community?