



Sustainable Networks

Wednesday • January 30, 2008

- 9:30 Tutorial & Troubleshooting
- 10:00 Welcome & Check-In
- 10:15 Overview of session & Opening of Topic
- 10:40 Deeper Conversation
- 11:00 Challenges
- 11:15 Debrief of call & Next steps



Planning Team

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From which learning circle did you hear about this session?
(You may place yourself in more than one.)

What role have you played in intentional networks?
(You may select more than one.)

Building Sustainable Networks Overview

- The case for collaboration
- Why 'sustainable networks': a brief history of the work via LLC
- Lessons learned emerged in three areas:
 - Collaborative Potential and Rationale
 - Participation and Communication
 - Network Sustainability

Key Lessons Learned

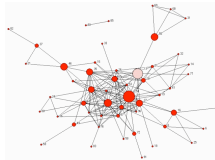
- Working together can leverage resources and impact
- Different stages of network development: within program and cross-program
- Challenges of crossing boundaries: time, funding and culture issues
- Who participates and why?
- Investment and involvement: requests and requirements
- Communication strategies
- Focus, scope of work and resources
- Coordinating across efforts

Discussion

- Any clarifying questions based on Odin's presentation? (Raise hand)
- What forms of collaboration and network creation are we seeing in the leadership development arena? (Use chat to share for 2 minutes)
- Review the chat for 1-2 minutes.
- Is there a topic you are interested in knowing more about? Do you have a question of clarification? (Raise hand)

What is Social Network Analysis?

- A set of tools and processes for better understanding the relationships in a network
- The nodes in the network can be people, teams, organizations and the lines are the relationships between them
- Network maps can make visible ties of communication, collaboration, resource exchange
- They can show centrality, cohesion, "betweenness"
- For more information about social network analysis visit Leadernetwork.pbwiki.com or Search "network" on the LLC site www.leadershiplearning.org



Benefits of SNA

For Leadership Networks

- Visually see who is in the network and who communicates, collaborates and shares resources with whom
- Identify opportunities for expanding and strengthening the network
- Mobilize the network more effectively (e.g. disseminate information, advocate for policy change)
- Access resources and sources of innovation in the network

For Leadership Programs

- Identify gaps in the network and use that info to recruit program participants
- Share network data with program alumni
- Identify emerging clusters of activity or affinity groups and learn what they are doing

Online Communities

No agreed upon definition but what popular definitions have in common:

Community in online space is usually more reflective of a common interest in something or an intentional, explicit (in the sense of explicit knowledge) network.

(As opposed to an unintentional or tacit network that includes links to my neighbor, my colleague, our intern from 3 summers ago, my yoga instructor, my high school classmate, the organization I volunteer with and my recreational basketball team).

Why online or “virtual” communities?

Reasons and benefits embody the reasons we create sustainable networks with these added benefits:

- Support and further face-to-face work
- Easier to cross boundaries of time, organization & geography
- Potentially lower financial & environmental cost than travel

Web-based Tools & Resources to Support Online Communities

Tools (community & social networking platforms, wikis)

- Ning.com
- Drupal.org
- LinkedIn.com
- Facebook.com
- Pbwiki.com
- WiserEarth.org

Resources for nonprofit technology & online community building

- Techsoup.org
- NetSquared.org
- AspirationTech.org
- NTEN.org
- Socialsourcecommons.org

Questions : Framing a Deeper Conversation

- What tools or processes do you find strengthen leadership networks? (Use chat to share for 2 minutes)
- Review the chat for 1-2 minutes.
- Is there a topic you are interested in knowing more about? Do you have a question of clarification? (Raise hand)

What is the Biggest Challenge?

- What are the biggest challenges to sustaining network participation and how have you addressed this challenge? (2-3 minutes in chat)
- Review chat (1-2 minutes)
- Identify themes (raise hands)

Next Steps