

Project Academy, Core Life-Skill Learning

...A PLACE TO DREAM



A Bit of Background:

- Project Academy is a 501 (C)3 non-profit corp. whose purpose is to serve the community by successfully preparing entry level people & high school students to be productive in business, education & society organizations.
- Our students develop college or career readiness “Life-Skills” and see themselves as owners of their own business. They have a positive attitude, caring for the customers with continuous improvement and looking to learn and get better at what they do.



Corporate Needs:

The Carnegie Mellon Foundation and Stanford Research Institute surveyed Fortune 500 CEOs, identifying the most **critical skills**. They concluded that 75% of long-term career success depends on soft skills, such as: **the ability to process and organize new information, solve problems, think critically, manage time and deadlines, communicate effectively with others, etc.** Only 25% of long-term success, however, depends on technical “content” knowledge. *softskills.com*



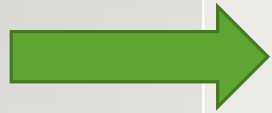
Educational Needs:

- Besides academic skills, students & young adults need life skills to communicate, work in teams, problem solve, social & emotional learning and personal skills to interact with the community, educational and business organizations.
- "Being college and career ready means that an individual has the knowledge, skills and experiences necessary for success in postsecondary education and economically viable career pathways in a 21st century economy."

Mass. Department of Ed. college & career readiness definition



Three Products



Pre-Employment Training



After-School Programs



- Custom Professional Development,
- In-house Training



Issues/Background:

- Young Adults need additional skills for employment.
- They need an environment for collaborative-interdisciplinary learning. A selective school that commands attention in the work community.
- A growing number of young adults are finding it difficult to manage the complexities of life relating to the interface of society, schools and business.
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Commitment by the Young Adult: ... *Selective learning approach*

- High Standards & Expectation
- Long term outlook
- SEL outlook
- Grit

Pre-Employment training: ... *Why this makes sense*

- Our pre-employment program is designed to give young adults, who dropped out of school or have graduated HS and have little direction, the life skills and attitude to become part of the community. The program is designed to include the community and business partners to insure success for the individual. Needs of the young adult will be assessed; such as transportation, family commitments, legal and others to make the training possible and successful.
- **Business Needs:** Businesses are reporting that a major need for their success are employees with life skills such as; interpersonal skills, communication skills, teamwork, critical thinking and problem solving. Our program intends to work with local businesses to insure that we provide these skills in addition to a positive attitude and seeing problems as opportunities.



General Tenants to understand:

- 1. Will change careers equally as jobs.**
- 2. Life-skills are transferable between careers/jobs**
- 3. Think of yourself as in your own business. ... Your boss is your customer. Build your brand.**
- 4. Problems are opportunities ... the bigger the problem the bigger the opportunity. Vinod Khosla**
- 5. Use the engineering mind-set to focus on all the activities around your normal position.**
- 6. Learn from your errors ... They are learning tools**
- 7. Be a lifelong learner ... Have fun at it.**



Our Uniqueness

- Mindset Thinking
- Life-Skills
cognitively infused
- Students In Control



Ownership Mindset

Engineering Mindset

Growth Mindset

Learning Mindset



Other Benefits:

- **Creating a team that operates like a sports team with values, roles, charter, and a culture.**
- **Connects with employers, provides logistics and follow-on supports**
- **Participants are involved in the ownership and management of the program.**
- **Creates a community culture of helping each other.**
- **Connects directly with learning life skills (College & Career Readiness Skills).**
- **Supports a joyful and playful creative attitude in the program. Puts a smile into the learning and fosters reaching for a dream.**



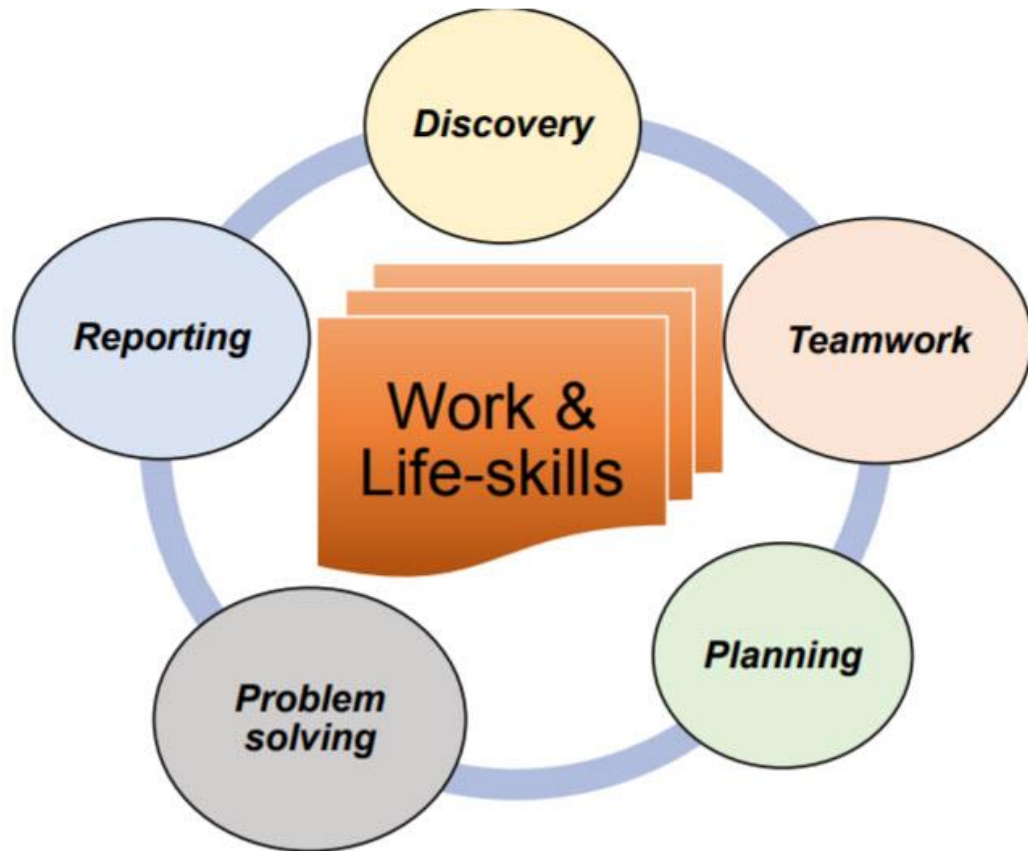
Pre-Employment Program

Student Needs:

- **Security – We desire health, safety, familiarity, and competence.**
- **Status – We seek recognition of our contributions.**
- **Achievement – We strive for excellence and take pride in our accomplishments.**
- **Autonomy – We seek freedom in our actions and decisions.**
- **Purpose – We want to make a meaningful difference.**
- **Belonging – We want a meaningful connection to others.**
- core-human drives



Process

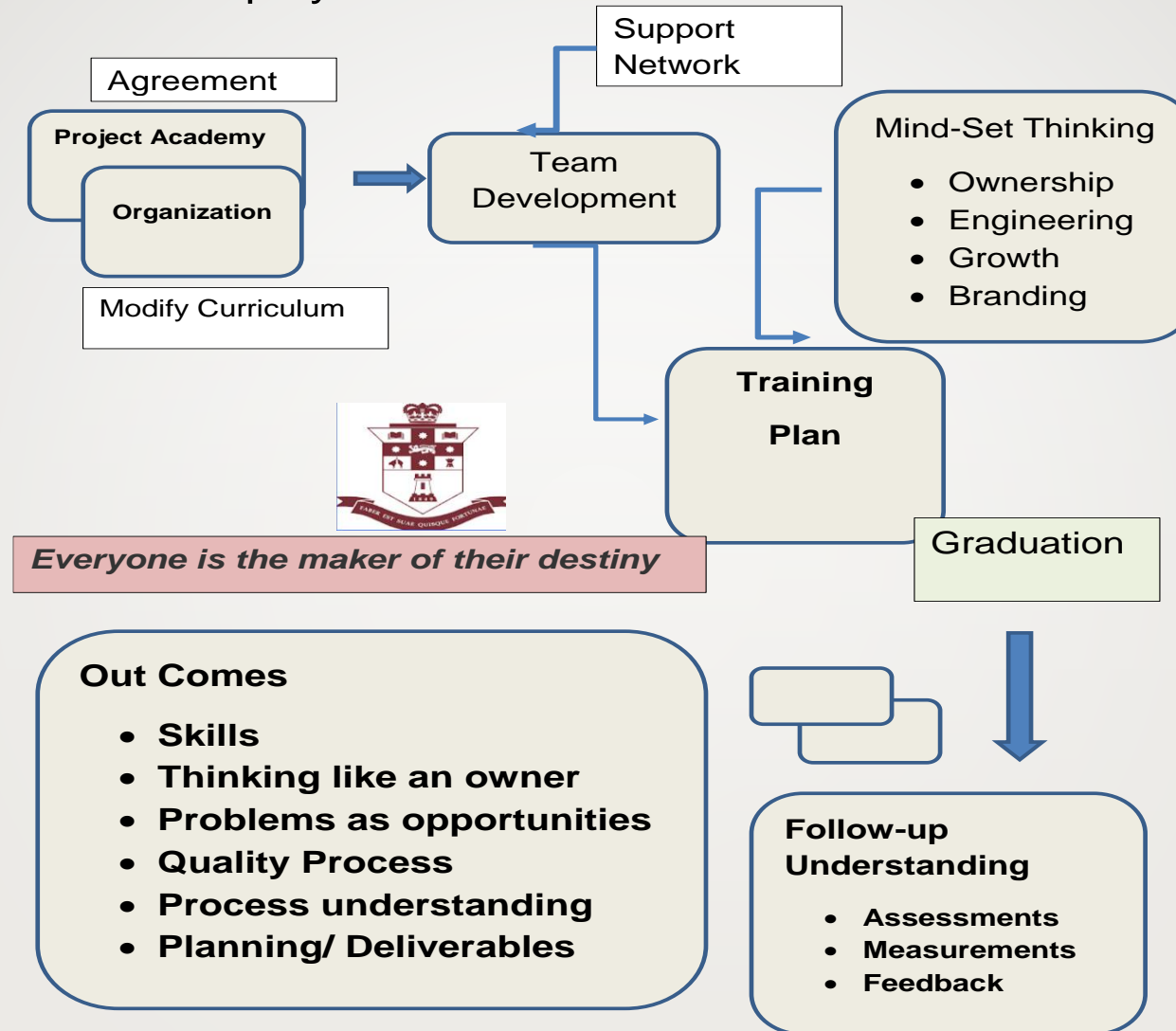


Life-Skills

- Attitude
- Social & Emotional Learning
- Team Work
- Problem solving
- Personal skills
- Business literacy



Pre-Employment Process



Your Thoughts & Questions?

- How can we make this work for our community & your success?

Thanks for listening

