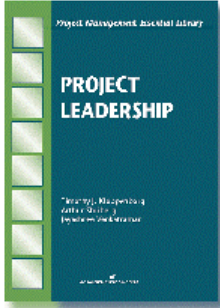


PMF Book Review



Book Title: Project Leadership
Author: Timothy J. Kloppenborg, Arthur Shriberg, Jayashree Venkatraman
Publisher: Management Concepts, Inc.
List Price: \$24.95 US
Publication Date: 2003
Reviewer: Jamita Machen
Review Date: February 2007

Project Leadership targets the project manager and highlights the importance of project leadership skills needed in addition to project manager skills. The book describes the evolution of leadership qualities and delivers the case of why project leadership is a discipline in itself. In addition, the book lays out project leadership tasks that could be applied during each phase of a project lifecycle in a guide-like fashion for quick-referencing and reviewing.

Overview of Book's Structure

The book is well organized into six chapters. Chapter 1 highlights the history of project management and the evolving study of leadership. Chapters 2 through 5 each cover a stage in the project lifecycle (Project Initiating, Project Planning, Project Executing, Project Closing) introduced by the authors. For each stage in the lifecycle, a set of seven leadership tasks organized within seven leadership categories (Project Priorities, Project Details, Project Integration, Human Resources, Human Relations, Project Promotion, Project Commitment) are introduced and demonstrated. Chapter 6 of the book summarizes what was discussed in Chapters 1 through 5 as well as discuss the challenges with Project Leadership. In addition, there are three appendices that give sample assessments for aiding in the development of project leadership skills.

Highlights: What I liked!

The use of a reoccurring case study to demonstrate to the reader how to apply the leadership tasks for each project life cycle stage was effective. The authors would deliver the basic leadership fundamentals for each lifecycle stage and follow up with the application of these fundamentals using the evolving case study. Their use of the case study highlighted effective and non-effective project leadership qualities. For the non-effective leadership fundamentals, the authors gave suggestions on how to improve.

In addition, the book is well organized for easy reading as well as easy referencing to the leadership fundamentals. Furthermore, the appendices have several useful

sample assessments that could aid in developing leadership qualities as they apply to projects.

Who might benefit from the Book

Even though the book is focused on *project* leadership, the leadership fundamentals introduced could apply to other managers and leaders within an organization as well. After applying the leadership fundamentals highlighted in the book, project managers will more than likely see an improvement in their day-to-day management of projects.

Conclusion

As more and more companies focus on the development of project managers, they are noticing the importance of project leadership skills, commonly known as "soft skills". Project Leadership is evolving into its own discipline. Coupling the leadership fundamentals with the management fundamentals, per the PMBOK, would develop a project manager into an effective project manager/leader.

About the Reviewer:



Jamita Machen



Jamita Machen was born in Dallas, Texas and raised in DeSoto, Texas. Currently, she resides in Cedar Hill, Texas, USA. She currently works at Securus Technologies as a Software Lead. She graduated from Texas A&M University in May 1994 with a Bachelors in Computer Science. Soon afterwards, she moved to Phoenix, AZ to work for Motorola, Government division. After 4 years, she transferred to Motorola headquarters in Chicago. In Chicago, she acquired a Masters of Science in Computer Science focusing on 3D Graphics. Soon after, she moved back to the Dallas area to work for IBM as a consultant. After working with IBM for 4 years, she left to work for a start-up in Plano, Texas - Masergy Telecommunications and ultimately, Securus Technologies. She is currently enrolled in the Project Management Executive MBA Program at the University of Texas at Dallas.