

Session One: Leadership

Description

This three hour training will coach advisors to build awareness of leadership opportunities, identify tools and techniques to hone leadership skills, and serve as resources and support to youth leaders. Through interactive group activities and dynamic exercises, participants will leave prepared to advance the mission and achieve the goals to foster inclusion and develop leaders in their community.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

1. Develop tactics to balance expectations, meet goals, and practice an empowered mindset
2. Identify tools and techniques to foster, support, and cultivate youth leaders
3. Hold themselves accountable for their own success
4. Adopt life-changing strategies and tools

Presenter

Jennifer Powers, MA, MCC, is a highly sought after coach, trainer, and author. She is a leading expert in helping professionals improve their confidence and competence so they can live and work at their full potential. Jennifer founded her coaching and speaking practice in 2005. Since then she has coached hundreds of professionals, executives and entrepreneurs and has delivered powerful keynote addresses to over 250,000 people around the globe. In January of 2016, Jennifer received her MCC (Master Certified Coach), the highest earned credential from the International Coach Federation, which puts her in the top 4% of coaches worldwide. With clients on five continents, the energy and excitement Jennifer brings to her work is contagious as she inspires change in the lives and businesses of her clients across the world.

For more information and resources visit www.jenniferpowers.com and www.ohshift.com.

Session Two: Activity Planning

Description

"Positive Cultures produce Productive People!" Creating a Positive Culture is a complicated game. Your success is dependent on how you play. A culture is something you choose to be a part of, or something you choose to create. "The Personal Growth Connoisseur," Frank Kitchen, will use his book of games and resources to facilitate a tailored interactive experience designed to elevate the culture of your Best Buddies club. During this one hour session, he'll teach you why "It's OK to Play!"

Learning Outcomes

Participants will learn:

1. How games can be used to create productive environments
2. The four characteristics of a positive culture
3. How to develop and foster strong relationships
4. New training techniques to energize your volunteers and students

Presenter

Frank Kitchen, Fundraiser, Consultant, and Keynote Speaker, is known as "The Personal Growth Connoisseur." Through engaging activities and his lively speaking presence, Frank educates, elevates, and empowers professionals, educators, entrepreneurs, volunteers and students to be Difference Makers and Life Changers. He is only the third African American to earn the Benefit Auctioneer Specialist (BAS) designation from the National Auctioneers Association (NAA). When not on stage as a speaker, he works with numerous nonprofits and schools across the United States to raise millions of dollars to support their philanthropic causes. He lives in Arizona with his wife and two kids.

Session Three: Social & Emotional Learning

Description

This two hour session will provide participants with a strategies to utilize the Harmony program in their classroom and during Best Buddies meetings. The tools provided through the Sanford Harmony program empower students to connect, communicate, collaborate, embrace diversity, and resolve conflict through interactive games and workshops. This session will review the evidenced-based strategies of Meet Up and Buddy Up and grade level lessons and activities provided by Sanford Harmony and how to maximize effective use of the materials.

Harmony is a program aligned with Common Core Standards, state, district, and national initiatives.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will learn:

1. Practical strategies, stories, activities, and lessons for improving relationships, teaching empathy, increasing student confidence and reducing bullying
2. The importance of social and emotional intelligence
3. How to make meetings meaningful for chapter members
4. Strategies to implement the Harmony curriculum at events and meetings
5. Methods to foster engaged conversation between students with and without disabilities

Presenter

Annie Middlemist is a Senior Regional Ambassador for the Sanford Harmony Program. She enjoyed over 15 years as a classroom teacher, working with students from Kindergarten through high school. Her specialty is working in special education at the elementary level.

Annie now enjoys traveling around the country to share the message of inclusion, diversity and acceptance through the Sanford Harmony program by offering tools, lessons and insight to help teachers and students develop healthy relationships. She recently completed her Master's degree in Organizational Leadership. When she is not traveling, she enjoys time with her husband of 20 years, two teenage boys and three dogs, Maggie, Molly and Murphy.

Session Four: Postsecondary Employment Opportunities

Description

This two hour session will evaluate postsecondary opportunities for adults with disabilities, specifically exploring employment and job development. Participants will learn strategies to navigate the services available post-high school and develop tools, connections, and establish resources to provide knowledgeable guidance to student's families.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand and identify related services
2. Strategize options for community experiences
3. Understand the development of employment and other adult living objectives
4. Recognize tools and resources for the acquisition of daily living skills

Presenter

Erica Brody is the Director of Program Advancement for Northwest Center in Seattle, WA - a social enterprise with a mission to provide opportunities for people with disabilities to learn, work, and live to their full potential. Prior to joining Northwest Center, Erica was a Program Officer with the Poses Family Foundation in New York City, where she managed a portfolio of grants focused on driving innovation in advancing employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Erica started her career in management consulting with Deloitte Consulting, providing change management, training, and leadership development solutions to clients across several industries - including Consumer Products, Healthcare, State Government, and Federal agencies.

Erica has been involved in Best Buddies for over ten years, participating in the High School, College, Citizens and e-Buddies programs and serving as the Student Representative on the Board of Directors and the Chair of the Young Leaders Council from 2011 - 2014.

Session Five: Program Management

Description

Over the course of two hours, advisors will explore strategies, tools, and best practices for effective management of their Best Buddies program. Information through panel discussions and short lectures, in addition collaborative education experiences, will provide attendees with a clearer understanding of program expectations, strategies to achieve goals, and online resources to track and monitor progress.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

1. Clearly define program expectations and the available support resources
2. Understand and access available online sites and tools for effective program management
3. Identify benchmarks and measurable outcomes for programs
4. Establish cohorts for communication, strategy sharing, and networks for ongoing support

Presenters

Presenters for this session are comprised of the Best Buddies Senior Leadership Team and program experts in the field, include experienced advisors from the longest established Best Buddies chapters.