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## Leadership Workshop fosters coordination, cooperation

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It's not every day you get to hear Dr. Bruhn sing, but Dr. Bruhn along with a talented group of students performed their own unique rendition of "Old McDonald Had a Farm" for fellow participants in the Leadership '97 Mini Workshop held in the CUB on Saturday, September 20th.

This workshop was designed to foster team building skills in Penn State Students. It was also the first activity co-planned and attended by representatives from both the Schuylkill and Harrisburg Campus locations. Janet Widoff, Student Activities Coordinator for the Harrisburg Campus noted that the Workshop was planned through meetings at both campus locations.

The theme of this fall's workshop was Together Each Achieves More or TEAM. Ali Rhodes, Assistant to the Director of Student Affairs at the Schuylkill Campus said, "Students were happy about coming to see the [Harrisburg] campus. A team, that's what we're really trying to create between the campuses."

Workshop participants were encouraged to find and get to know their counterparts from clubs and organizations on the opposite campus.

Karl Martz, Coordinator of Career Services at Penn State Harrisburg explains why the concept of team building is important to students.

"Team building, team skills...these are skills you can learn and take with you when you leave. Every employer is looking

for team players," says Martz.

Workshop facilitator Maryann Leidigh would second that statement. In addition to working as Adjunct Instructor in Behavioral Sciences and Education, Leidigh does consulting for area businesses where she addresses topics ranging from stress management to supervisory skills to team building.

"Companies need people who know team skills rather than just paying them lip service," asserts Leidigh.

Leidigh gave participants four goals for the workshop: to have fun, to be open to sharing ideas, to network with other participants, and to take one new idea away from the workshop and apply it to something in their lives.

Penn State Harrisburg student Lisa Coley, a junior accounting major will have a chance to take the skills she learned back to her clubs and organizations. A member of IMASC (International Management Accounts Student Chapter), CCF (Capitol Christian Fellowship), and BSU (Black Student Union), Coley says she has "learned the importance of getting to know what the members of a group are about and how to play on their strengths; and strategies to get persons who are not interested in participating in a group to become involved."

From ice breakers to working together to solve puzzles, participants had a chance to experience the dynamics of working in small groups and learning to recognize the unique strengths each person can contribute.

Unfortunately, not all groups of people work well together. In many

groups conflicts and misunderstandings overshadow any achievement. "It is important to realize not everyone in a group shares the same goal. You may be there to get an 'A' and someone else may not care," says Leidigh. Leidigh and conference participants discussed ways of establishing concrete group goals and communicating intentions and expectations to increase group participation and effectiveness.

At the end of the day Leidigh proved that teamwork can, above all, be fun. Groups were given cups, crayons, scissors and paper towel rolls and asked to brainstorm in small groups about what they could create. From elevated highways to playgrounds and the performance of "Old McDonald" with voice and cardboard instruments, each group exhibited it's unique potential.

"This is my favorite activity," says Leidigh. "Too often we set rigid rules for ourselves, but here, given the same circumstances, the same materials, they took ideas and ran with them." Because participants were given a chance to get to know group members during the course of the workshop, they were comfortable brainstorming any number of ideas.

"Everyone came up with a variety of ideas. Teamwork is out there now and here to stay," says Leidigh. Leadership Workshop '98 is planned for February 7th. Continuing the theme of team building, community, government, and business leaders will be invited to speak to students about teamwork in their careers.