

May 4, 2009

W. H. McGannon Foundation
c/o Mr. Joe Hardy
Account Development Executive
Compliance Management Inc.
220 Royal Crest Court Ste. 1
Markham, Ontario L3R 9Y2

Dear Mr. Hardy;

Please find enclosed our report for the “Learning to Lead” Seminar as a result of the \$2500 grant Junior Achievement of British Columbia received from the McGannon Foundation.

To have the support of the Foundation meant a lot to us and we were very pleased that you agreed to this grant for our “Company Program – A Student Venture” students. Your funding allowed us to enhance our program with a full day seminar to include an excellent session on risk management. The event was held on February 14th and attended by 45 Junior Achievement students.

Thank you again for your generous funding. Together we helped make a difference in the lives of these young people by providing them with tools and teachings needed to become tomorrow’s leaders and the type of employees that businesses want to hire.

Yours very truly,

Alix Santoro
Vice President, Development

Cc: Wayne Hickey, Manager, Risk Management, Methanex Corporation



Learning to Lead

A Workshop for JA Company Program



An Overview

On Saturday February 14th Junior Achievement of British Columbia coordinated the Learning to Lead workshop on risk management for Company Program participants in Vancouver and the lower mainland. Sponsored by the W.H. McGannon Foundation, the workshop's morning session featured an interactive simulation game which introduced students to some basic concepts companies must grapple with when planning strategies to minimize risk factors which may impact their reputations, revenues and activities. Guest speakers and facilitators were Wayne Hickey (Methanex), Steve Matterson (BC Ferries), and Deborah Campbell, Ken Lee and Noush Sardashti (all from FM Global).

During the afternoon students focused on other areas of company operations, participating in sessions on marketing strategies and finance led by CP mentors Elco Gauw and Anastasia Kovaleva (PricewaterhouseCoopers), and talked about the value of teamwork in pulling a company together.

The day-long workshop was held at BCIT's Downtown Vancouver campus with 45 high school students participating, representing both in-school and after-school Company Programs from 15 schools located in Vancouver, North Vancouver, Burnaby, Port Moody, Coquitlam and Surrey.

Student Response

Overall students responded very positively to the workshop experience and gained a significant new understanding of the concept of risk management, as evidenced from their candid comments on the workshop evaluation they completed at the session's end.

Some sample comments are below.

When asked to indicate the most important thing they had learned about risk management, students responded:

- 'Always be prepared for the unlikely'
- 'Planning about the risks before it happens'
- The importance and role of risk management in business'
- 'It's important to make decisions regarding precautions, always have a backup plan'
- 'I learned that risk management is an important part of a business'
- 'Always plan ahead!'
- 'Think outside the box and be cautious of whatever could happen and try to be prepared'

In order of priority, the students rated the simulation game, the elevator pitches they worked on in the afternoon's marketing session, the opportunity to learn from 'executives with real-life experience' and the opportunity to meet new people as the best parts of the day.

Virtually 100% of the students indicated they had acquired new ideas for their JA Company and had developed a better understanding of risk management and what it means to a business.

As a result of the workshop:

97% of respondents said they had improved their general knowledge of business

92% of respondents said they had improved their communication skills

84% of respondents said they had improved their leadership skills

78% of respondents said they had improved their teamwork skills

And finally, in response to a question asking how we could improve the workshop the most popular suggestion was to add even more interactive game sessions to the day, followed by suggestions for more interaction among students and more 'question and answer' time.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Learning to Lead workshop in Vancouver was highly successful for a first time venture. JABC staff were encouraged by the turn out of participants and impressed by the caliber of the volunteer speakers and facilitators. 97% of the students surveyed indicated they would participate in other business education activities offered outside the regular Company Program meetings.

Should we be offered the opportunity to organize this workshop again we would build in more time for student interaction as suggested by this year's participants, and would likely adjust our afternoon sessions to offer a more informal venue for students to engage with each other and with the volunteer facilitators.

Junior Achievement of BC would like to thank the volunteer facilitators for sharing their time and expertise with JA students, and the W. H. McGannon Foundation for making it possible to offer this session here in BC.

We would also like to thank Michael Key from FM Global for his assistance in the initial planning of this session.

Barb Jones
Manager, Senior High School Programs
Junior Achievement of British Columbia
604-688-3887, Ext 223
Barb.jones@jabc.org

“LEARNING TO LEAD” – A Workshop for JA Company Program

