Systems and Engineering Leadership Program (SELP) Leading through Powerful Communication

Workshop Summary

This 3 ½ day workshop leans on the Leadership Choices Model introduced in earlier workshops to help participants develop their leadership story and assist in providing greater clarity about personal values and how they align with NASA. Exercises and peer-to-peer feedback will help participants paint a compelling vision that inspires and connects with others.

This workshop explores the art of successful presentation skills for technical professionals. Participants will be introduced to social science concepts that shape judgments about presenters and communicators that will help them understand the signals sent by a wide range of nonverbal cues. Participants will learn to speak powerfully and think strategically about how to pitch a presentation that will connect with an audience’s expectations and/or interest. Everyone will have an opportunity to review their own presentations and learn to self-diagnose for continuous learning and improvement.

Elements of Political Savvy, power mapping and ethics of political savvy will be introduced that will enable participants to conduct a stakeholder analysis, manage political conversations and make judgments under certain conditions.

Who should apply to SELP?

Full–time, permanent GS-13 to GS-15 NASA employee or a senior systems engineer at JPL that have been nominated, and selected to the program year.

What Will I Learn?

The material relayed throughout the workshop will provide a broad overview for four main learning objectives, which are expected to be applied back on the job:

- Develop and deliver persuasive presentations.
- Conduct a stakeholder analysis and know how to build political capital.
- Use dialogue skills to set-up and participate in effective collaboration and decision-making with agency internal and external stakeholders.
- Participate in giving and receiving effective peer coaching to notch up your own and other leadership effectiveness.

Competencies/Technical Areas

- Develop skills to speak powerfully while taking the audiences perspective and the use of stories in presentations.
- Think strategically about how to pitch presentations that connect with the audience.
- Understand Political Savviness and ethics associated with being politically savvy.
- Build strong dialogue skills in the context of their own teams and programs.