

### **MTLI Regent / Instructor: Behind the Scenes**

To commit to being a regent / instructor at MTLI is so much more than going to Oglebay Park in Wheeling, WV for one week of the year. So much of this role depends on the actions outside of that one week in April. To start with this is a volunteer position. None of the regents / instructors time for doing the following activities is paid for. There are countless hours and commitments that need to be made to assure that the educational experience we produce annually for our students is a top notch one. I will try and highlight some of those necessary activities in the coming paragraphs.

To start though, I was to address what kind of person it takes to be a regent/ instructor. Since this is a volunteer position one needs to be dedicated and passionate about the education and mentoring of others. We need a person who is well rounded in leadership skills. All too often, we see front line leaders who may not have strong backgrounds in finance, culture, human relations, quality, etc. This is necessary as we are all called upon to answer our student's questions in the group projects or we may need to cover each other's lectures from time to time. While our expectation is not that one needs to be an expert in all areas, a regent / instructor should be able to answer basic questions which is truly the focus of the course, basic leadership.

We also need someone who is good at mentoring and coaching. All regent's instructors are required to work with groups in facilitating and coaching them during their group project. This feedback may involve having crucial conversations with the team in a manner that builds the team and their ability to complete the task at hand.

From a time commitment perspective, all regents / instructors are asked to update and maintain their monographs and educational materials annually. We occasionally may update the course curriculum as well as we adapt to new topics or requirements of leaders. As such one may be asked to develop a whole new course. The writing of the monographs and preparing the educational materials used at MTLI can take many, many hours. In addition we ask that all regents / instructors serve on committees that are formed to oversee the school. These committees, include things such as overseeing the curriculum, capstone project development, outreach activities, technology, and graduate school oversight, to name a few. The regents / instructors attend monthly conference calls as a large group and many of the committees also have regular calls. In addition to attending the yearly MTLI session in April, Instructors / regents also get together for 2-3 days in late fall to begin planning for the next year's course.

Finally, while not necessarily required, the promotion of MTLI has also involved a lot of time and energy of the regents / instructors. We ask that each person is doing their best to talk about and promote the school in different functions or conferences that we might attend. At AMTC, we ask that each regent / instructor spend some time at the MTLI booth so that current, past, and future attendees can discuss the school and we are available to answer questions.

As you can see, there is much more to being a regent / instructor than just attending the course for 6 days in April. While it can be a very demanding role it is also very satisfying when you see the smiles of those individuals graduating after a long week that second year of MTLI. Come join and be a part of building leaders for tomorrow.