

U.S. Diplomats Agree on Teamwork



When the U.S. Department of State needed to train its new diplomats in teamwork and leadership, they turned to Team Results.

Starting in early 2008, Team Results USA has run the two-day teamwork and leadership retreat that is a part of the five-week orientation process which all newly-recruited U.S. diplomats are required to undergo. Team Results is contracted to continue these retreats till at least 2016.

“Team Results’ sessions consistently receive very high ratings from the student surveys”, says the State Department in an official assessment. “Nearly 100% of the students rated the team building program as ‘good’ or ‘excellent’”, continues this major client. “The students commented very positively about the challenges (activities) and the debriefs”, which are “innovative, appropriate, fun, tricky, utilizing a variety of team skills and emphasizing different aspects of teamwork.”

The State Department is responsible for the U.S. diplomatic presence worldwide, and its training and development areas are staffed by highly qualified leadership training specialists and senior managers who are among the best on the globe. As experts in team and leadership training for results-critical environments, few organizations are more familiar with the known offerings and approaches to teamwork and leadership available worldwide from the organizations, companies and institutions that offer these.

When it came to a need critical to the U.S. to train new diplomats for deployment, results and success domestically and overseas, the State Department turned to Team Results USA.

“The debriefs are short and effective”, continues the official State Department assessment, “and facilitators guide the teams without interfering. Students recognize the importance of developing followership skills, in addition to leadership skills, as a result of this program.”

For their part, Team Results USA facilitators are not your ordinary team-builders. Ranging from a retired two-star general to the Ph.D former head of the Dissertation Committee in education and development at the Fischler School, all have led distinguished first careers and see the State Department as an ideal place to give back, share their expertise, do something worthwhile, and help their country both governmentally and commercially.

“This is what I love to do,” says Team Results USA facilitator MajGen (ret.) Simon Willis. “I’ve run large institutions and been a top diplomat for many years, but my real passion has always been developing people. Nobody in the world does it quite the way that Team Results does, and I’ve never seen anything more effective.”

“Team Results has met all our goals,” concludes the official State Department assessment. “We recommend them highly for future U.S. Government work.”