

## **Leadership for Social Justice and Social Change - Group Discussions**

**Scenario:** Imagine you are the student representative on a UNC-Chapel Hill task force looking at how better to support students from impoverished backgrounds. Other group members are faculty and administrators.

**Instructions:** You have each been assigned to a group. Each group has a set of specific questions applying one of the leadership principles to the task force scenario. Go to your group's assigned room and as a group discuss and prepare responses to your questions. Choose a spokesperson for your group to share the highlights from your discussion.

### **Groups 1 & 2: A focus on results or purpose**

1. What are the results you, as a social worker, would like to see from this task force? Be as concrete and specific as possible. What will the experience of a student from a disadvantaged background look like if this task force is successful?
2. Why do you feel these results are important (as opposed to other outcomes you might have chosen)?

### **Group 3: Self-knowledge**

1. Why is self-knowledge important as you work as a change agent in this group? What issues or assumptions might this group's task/topic bring up for you and other members?
2. How might issues or assumptions "stirred up" interfere with the work process of the group? What could you do to keep the group moving in a productive way?

### **Group 4: Respect and Inclusion**

1. What are all the issues of respect and inclusion that must be considered by this work group as they think of ways to be supportive to students from impoverished backgrounds?
2. What are the issues of respect and inclusion that must be considered within the work group itself?

### **Group 5: Effective Communication**

1. You are the only student in this work group. What communication style and strategies do you think will be most effective for you if you want to effect change in the group?
2. What communication should the group have with outside constituents—who and why?

### **Group 6: Teamwork and Collaboration**

1. What might be some of the challenges to teamwork you face within the group? What strategies can you use to strengthen the teamwork in the group?
2. What collaborators do you need, outside of this group, for it to have a successful outcome?

### **Groups 7 & 8: Critical and Creative Thinking**

1. Brainstorm as many possible ways as you can to reach the goals of the group (i.e. provide support to economically vulnerable students). Think widely and wildly!
2. Critically think about these ideas, considering likelihood of success, strength of impact, and choose the 3 best ideas. Is there other information you would have liked to have as you made these decisions?

### **Groups 9 & 10: Moral Courage**

“Leadership at any level” means you can speak up when things need to be said, no matter what your role in the situation. That takes moral courage.

1. Brainstorm several situations where, as a social worker and a member of this work group, you might need to speak up—but it might be difficult. What might the content areas be that you need to speak about? The people you need to speak up to?
2. What are some effective ways to speak truth to power?