

Board of Directors: Mentorship, Personal Networks, and Their Value

The Bonner Community Engagement Curriculum

BWBR Description: *Bonner Curriculum workshop helps participants consider mentors and their impacts, using the metaphor of a non-profit board of directors as advisors to guide them.*

Overview: The purpose of the “Board of Directors” exercise is to provide participants with a guided means of reflection to examine life purpose and relational influences. By examining their lives from the perspective that their life is a corporation, individuals will develop a mission statement as well as identify individuals, beliefs and/or values serving on their “Board of Directors”. Guided analysis and reflective questioning challenge participants to be intentional in the decisions related to direction/purpose and relationships.

Category: Visioning, Personal Development, Vocation; Career Development; Mentoring

Level: This activity is appropriate for all levels. It may be beneficial to use this exercise multiple times (freshman or sophomore year and senior year) so that individuals can see personal development.

Recommended

Bonner Sequence: The “Board of Directors” exercise is an excellent tool to use during freshmen orientation or a sophomore retreat. The first administration will give students an opportunity to begin their college career with some intentionality. During their senior year Bonners



**Multiple
times;
then
senior
year**

should be asked to repeat this exercise. Processing may include a comparison to their earlier “Board” and personal mission as well as a conversation about how they may change as students move into life beyond graduation.

Focus or Goals of this Guide:

- Afford participants the opportunity to identify a personal, life mission: who are you, who do you want to be, what difference do you want to make in the world.
- Provide participants with a means to identify individuals, beliefs, and/or values influencing their lives.
- Challenge participants to develop intentionality about relationship development and life planning.
- Offer an indirect understanding of non-profit and/or corporate board structure and philosophy.

Materials:

- Board of Directors worksheets
- Pens and/or pencils

How to Prepare:

Read the activity to become familiar with the exercise. Facilitators are encouraged to do the activity to gain personal insight into its impact. It is helpful, but not necessary, to have the “legend” written out on a flip-chart, chalkboard, white board or handout. This enables participants to reflect back on the meaning of the symbols later in the exercise. Become familiar with how to present the exercise.

How to Do/Brief Outline:

This activity has five basic components. Facilitators should use the suggested times as a guide, feeling free to allow more or less time based on the size of the group.

The 60-minute outline has the following parts:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Introduce activity | suggested time 5 minutes |
| 2. Distribute and complete worksheet | suggested time 10 minutes |
| 3. Board assessment questions | suggested time 10 minutes |
| 4. Sharing | suggested time 15 minutes |
| 5. Reflection questions | suggested time 20 minutes |

Part 1) Activity Introduction/Overview

Suggested time no more than 5 minutes

Distribute "Board of Directors" worksheets to all participants and say,

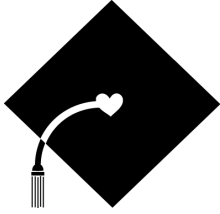
"Boards of Directors typically have general control of the direction, stability and viability for an organization. Boards are typically made up of a chair and members. Taking this concept to a personal level and identifying your life from an organizational perspective, who is on your board? Who do you rely upon for guidance, support or advice? Who or what holds a chair of influence or control in your life? This activity is designed to assist us in exploring our lives from a Board perspective."

Part 2) "Board of Directors" Worksheet Completion

Suggested time: 10 minutes

Say to participants:

" Your worksheet represents an aerial view of a Board room. List the names of the people or things currently holding a spot on your Board of Directors in the chairs provided. List each separately and be as specific as possible. In the center of the table, write your personal mission statement for life."



Who's on your Board of Directors?

Who influences you?

Whose perspectives do you value most?

Who has your back?

Who comes through with resources?

Me:

**Board
Member:**

**Board
Member:**

**Board
Member:**

**Board
Member:**

**Board
Member:**

**Board
Member:**

Board Chair: