



ASTD NEBRASKA - July Newsletter

July
2012

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Dear Shelly,

I recently facilitated a professional development course based on the book, *The Fred Factor*. If you are not familiar with this book, the author of the book lived on the Denver Postal Route of a postal carrier named Fred Shea. Author, Mark Sanborn used his personal experiences of having Fred as his postal carrier as the foundation of this book.

I am sharing this with you because the *Fred Factor* has changed the way I plan to run my business. For those of you that know me personally, you know that I don't own my own business...as I work for a wonderful organization. However, I do own *my own* responsibilities of job duties as a learning professional. And that is my business.

I found while reading this book and doing research; listening and watching *The Fred Factor* DVD's presented by Mark Sanborn...that I was missing the mark. I wasn't taking advantage of some of the best opportunities that could enrich my customers...adult learners. The *Fred Factor* taught me that I made a difference in my organization. I can be exceptional no matter how significant of a role I have in my company. But I do make a difference. I want to make a difference. In order to do that I must build relationships and create value to those individuals that I encounter each day. I learned that it doesn't cost a penny to continually create value. I just need to use my imagination. By using that imagination and creativity it will allow me to reinvent myself regularly...which in turn will help me rejuvenate my efforts and bring more value to my relationships where I am employed as well as my personal life.

If you haven't had a chance to read *The Fred Factor*, I encourage you to do so. This book opened my eyes and gave me a ***Tabula***

[Spotlight on
New Members](#)

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Rasa...which in Italian is translated to: A Clean Slate. A Fresh Start...to each day.
A new way to run my business.

I wish for you and your family a safe and Happy 4th of July!

Sincerely,
Jill
Idelmandirectorcommunications@astdneb
raska.org

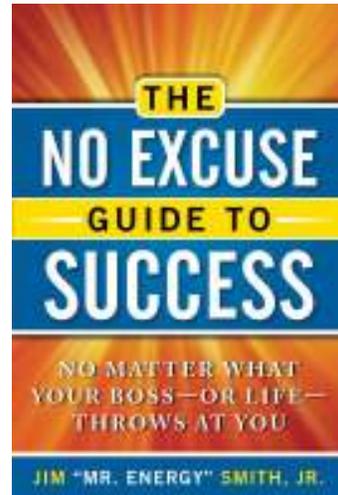


July Programming Special Event: Jim "Mr. Energy" Smith Jr.

Submitted by: Jill Banaszak

We all want to feel empowered to take charge of our destiny and the life we live every day. Still, everyone is guilty of the blame game; we blame the economy; we blame our managers; we blame our organization; we blame the system; we blame the culture; we blame our spouse; we blame our family heritage; we blame our friends. We blame everyone but ourselves.

and women in our life movie. Books can be purchased in advance from www.jimpact.com.



You will have the privilege to meet the author Jim Smith. Smith is an author, empowerment/motivational speaker, trainer and coach who has transformed the lives of thousands of people across the world, through his call to transform our lives from within. Some have referred to him as part Joel Osteen and part Oprah Winfrey, because Jim has a gift that enables people to overcome their inner fears and take their leadership and public speaking skills to heights that were previously unimaginable. His



enthusiastic and passionate style of speaking has earned him the distinction of "Mr. Energy!"

This special program will include

appetizers, a special 90 minute program, followed by a book signing.

Please join us Thursday, July 26th from 4pm to 6pm at the Scott Conference Center located at 6450 Pine Street in Omaha. Take advantage of early registration for only \$20 until Thursday, July 19. Regular registration begins on Friday, July 20 until Wednesday, July 25 for \$25.00. You also may register the day of the event for \$35. Registration is open and available for non-members at a cost of \$35. Hope to see you there!

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Improv, Music and ICE 2012

Submitted by: Cynthia Way

As trainers, we think what can we do differently to make an impact. ASTD ICE 2012 in Denver, CO had some fantastic sessions on doing just that! Learning through the use of aesthetic methods such as improvisation and music were used to improve skills, such as leadership and listening as well as increase teamwork and creativity.

Improvisation is a unique skill needed in business leaders of today. Improvisation skills enable one to be highly focused, react, and adapt immediately to a situation as context changes. The skill enhances decision making and impulse control. In one exercise, we had to make up a story. Each person had to use a noun and an action verb to perpetuate the story linking the concepts together with "yes, and..." So for example person a "sara biked to the market" person b "yes and she noticed a tornado on the highway..." The "yes and" statement validated the previous person's statement, something which is often remiss in business, as most tend to say "yes, but." In the exercise, you never knew what was going to come out of your mouth until it

was your turn. This took very intense listening skills to ensure we were following the previous storyline and what the person immediately before us had said. As we negotiated our way through the exercises, our team bonded and improved in creativity and communication.

Music offers a similar experience in facilitating collaboration and leadership. Music elicits particular responses in individuals. Making music can have an even more meaningful impact to both an individual and the team. At first, in the ASTD ICE session, we each had a small shaker instrument and naturally began following the lead of the "conductor" when he began playing. We watched his body language and facial expressions for cues and listened to his instrument to know what sound to make. It was an excellent exercise in listening and leadership.

Next we all had our own tubes which played different notes. We formed a cohesive ensemble from which we created our own songs. Our creative natures materialized through the process. Emergent leadership was also prevalent, as we tossed out ideas and with the improv's lesson of "yes..and" everyone's idea was validated and built off of. The team was in sync and aligned as we strategized how best to complete the task.



In all, music and improvisation can be used to enhance our training in programs by having our participants learn skills through a completely different type of experiential learning which can have a tremendous impact by expanding their mind sets, sparking innovation, and enhancing collaboration, insight, and communication.

Your Opportunity to take Your Membership to New Heights!

Submitted by: Christine Hitchcock

Early in 2008, I was a new member of ASTD Nebraska. As I sat down to my second or third Professional Development and Networking Event, I started to take stock of the value of this

organization to my professional development. As an experienced workplace learning professional, I knew I would meet a few like-minded people and possibly pick up a tidbit of knowledge I could use here and there to improve my skills. A year or two of membership in the organization seemed like a reasonable amount of time to get what I really needed.

Then Angela Galloway got up to speak. I didn't know Angela at the time and my memory for specific detail betrays me today but I can tell you I left that event inspired. Angela spoke so passionately and positively about her experience in the Chapter but even more enthusiastically about her service on the ASTD Nebraska Board of Directors. Angela may have been speaking about Adult Learning Principles or Return on Investment or perhaps even about Socio-economic Reform in Togo, for all I know, but what I took away from her was that I HAD to find a way to get onto the ASTD Nebraska Board in order to really take my membership and it's benefit to the next level.

Through some networking and a little luck, I landed a position on the ASTD Nebraska Board of Directors in 2009. It's been an amazing journey ever since. I have gained entire skill sets in leadership, managing a budget, marketing and statistics to name a few. I am more "connected" than I ever thought possible to workplace learning professionals across the country and I even have a few international contacts. The most precious benefit I have to date though is the number of trusted advisors and friends I have developed because of my affiliation with the ASTD Nebraska Board.



Are you ready to take your membership to new heights?

In mid-July through the month of August, ASTD Nebraska will be accepting applications for the 2013 Board of Directors. A nominating

committee will review applications and interview candidates in August and present a slate of Officers to the membership for a vote in September. The results will be revealed to candidates in late September and announced to the membership at the October Professional Development and Networking Event.

The benefit to the Chapter is inherent in your service on the board but don't forget your personal benefit. As I mentioned, Board members tend to build, not only a strong network of colleagues, but a circle of lasting friendships. Opportunities to showcase your talents are nearly unlimited on the board, whether your gifts are technical, theoretical, organizational or creative. We have a way for you to shine. The professional development opportunities you have as a member are rich and varied but as a board member your opportunities and resources grow exponentially. Don't forget the power of a "board member" title on your resume.

Apply today by following this [link](#). The link will also remain active on the ASTD Nebraska website through the month of August.

If you have questions, you can contact:
Chris Hitchcock, President Elect at 402-657-3396
or presidentelect@astdnebraska.org

Please seriously consider the contribution you can make to our Chapter and to your own professional development.

Hello...I'm G.L.A.D. to meet you today!

**Submitted by: Terry Lee,
Past-President ASTD
Nebraska**



You just left another great ASTD Nebraska program and you are excited. You walked away with new information or a new perspective on information you have already acquired. You are ready to take that information and apply to

your job. Ask yourself what else did you walk away with? How many new people did you meet? Did you build on any relationships with other workforce development professionals? What are other organizations doing in training and development that may work in your organization? If you answered negatively to those questions then you may not be maximizing your learning opportunities.

ASTD programs or other conferences are great opportunities for self development, learning new business acumen and learning

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