**Roles and Characteristics of Successful Teams**

**Project Leader**

Successful project team leaders have a servant leader mindset. They recognize their project will succeed if they choose the right team members, clearly negotiate and communicate project expectations, and don’t micromanage team members as they do their work. The project leader is empathetic and supports the team’s efforts with needed resources, guiding principles and agreed upon priorities. He/she must also encourage, motivate, reward and provide feedback on performance and accountability. The Leader corrects with kindness and celebrates achievement, but if problems arise, he/she knows how to resolve conflict. Project Leaders forgive mistakes, provide a culture of integrity, honor, self-reliance, innovation, camaraderie and trust. They play their best game and are accountable, come to meetings optimistic, look forward to interacting with the team, are appreciated by the team.

**Subject Matter Expert**

Teams succeed because they have experts who know the subject matter that the project entails. They know the industry or activity, current trends, have product knowledge, and know vendors they may interface with. They offer experience and know-how.

**Financial guru**

Successful teams need an experienced and talented financial member. The financial guru understands accounting, finance, strategy and cash flow management. This person helps make the project budget, maintains accurate records of the finances used by and available to the team and reports to the team leader and members, project sponsor, and stakeholders as needed. He/she must be proactive and alert the team of potential financial problems that may come up and suggest how to deal with them.

**The Strategist**

The team Strategist is critical because most project leaders and members are busy taking care of project tasks. Team leaders and members may not notice when situations change. The Strategist is on the lookout for changes in stakeholder or end user behavior. They stand back and look at the big picture as the project is underway and alerts the team to changes that need to be considered.

**The Executer**

Every successful team needs a person who owns the responsibility for monitoring that team tasks are being executed. They are good at scheduling, making checklists, research, inventory management, making sure things are built or created on time and provide updates to the team. They interface with all team members to make sure the project gets done.