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Case Study

People are the greatest asset to any company. Thus, staff and clientele needs must be of top priority. In order to mitigate risk at the onset of project acquisition, a team must be composed of individuals who are knowledgeable in their field and have growth potential. Communication with the client of a specific project also must be consistent and clear. As a Resident Assistant, I led a university-wide Woman's Day service event aimed at gathering members of the University community to sew sanitary products which would then be distributed to women in Haiti. This project required a dedicated team and a commitment to the scope of the project itself. Having had the opportunity to mentor several students in my undergraduate career, I was able to carefully select the team of students and communicate with them and our sponsors to create a successful event. Although the circumstances differ from professional practice, the goals and skills necessary remained the same—communication must be consistent and the project scope must be clear—to ensure that risk and oversight were diverted.

Along with communication and clarity throughout the project development, procedural policies must be put in place to mitigate potential risk to individuals of a project team. My volunteer experience with Habitat for Humanity has granted me this insight. Contractors on numerous built sites have imparted knowledge about risk aversion for the safety of themselves and fellow volunteers. Just as Habitat follows OSHA standards for safety on a worksite, companies must observe policies that benefit their staff within a workplace. Not only does this help to ensure project efficiency, but it recognizes that the wellbeing of workers must not be overlooked and can in itself increase a company's productivity.

Utilizing tools to efficiently organize a project team will also lead to its success. Processes through Building Information Modeling (BIM) should be utilized by professionals to automate their workflows. I have used such tools within my undergraduate studies to organize work across team members in architectural studios, review details within an individual project, and to evaluate my own design progress. A company can do this as well to streamline the accurate transfer of information between designers, management, and clientele. This automation creates efficiency and assesses the successes and failures of a project to avoid risk and improve procedures for future project acquisition.

In all, relative to my experiences, the mitigation of risk begins and concludes with individuals. By evaluating and cultivating a commitment to, communication with, and work environment for the firm's greatest assets, a successful and profitable project can be achieved.