Champlain College

Week 1: Assignment: Personal Learning Journal

(Boeing Dreamliner Case)

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MBA-506-81: Project Management

11 January 2025

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While looking at the past, we can find and fix potential problems in the future. For yourself and for companies. Soft skills are those indicators that we can use to guide us toward success. In the case of the Dreamliner, we can see several applications and miss-applications of soft skills toward creating the Dreamliner. I was cautious to call the creation of the Dreamliner a success but we still see many successes and the ability to learn from missteps.

**Direction and vision:** Boeing took the new concepts and integrated them into their new project. Boeing implemented “new developments in aviation technology and to speed up design and development” (Vega, n.d.) What we learn later was there was unforeseen consequences to these choices.

**Sound Judgement & Effective decision making:**

To shorten development time and to move costs to subcontractors Boeing required them “to integrate their own subsystems and send their preassembled subsystems to a final assembly site.” (Vega, n.d.) These types of choices are reasons upper management will take the blame and credit. Planning long-term goals is not easy.

**Coach / Mentor Team members and issue & conflict resolution:**  
 Now the sad part is “[a] lot of employees [felt] top management [didn’t] value them…” (Vega, n.d.) Tough choices have to be made for a company the size of Boeing, but keep personnel out of the loop while making you look “cold-blooded” as they said in the article.

References:

Vega, G. (n.d.). *Leadership implications in complex projects: The Boeing Dreamliner and Jim McNerney*. Organizational Ergonomics.