

Connor Gumbs - Team Pitstop

Self-reflection narrative after the in-class Team Pitstop activity

Introduction

Our Rover Wheels group consists of four members, with diverse academic backgrounds and representing different parts of the world, bringing different experiences and perspectives. I am a freshman and was born and raised in Miami. I am in Jones College and plan to major in mathematical economic analysis. Luke, a sophomore from Texas, is studying mechanical engineering and is part of Duncan College. Antony is a freshman from McMurry and is from Palestine, majoring in electrical engineering. The last member of our group, Hong, is a student at Sid Richardson College from China, majoring in mechanical engineering. Our team's international mix means that we each bring different cultural insights and approaches to challenges, which in turn helps us be more creative and well-rounded.

During our team pit stop, we identified scheduling, updating, and bonding as our core values. In our first and only non-academic meeting, we played squash at the rec center. It was the first time playing squash for most of the group, and it ended up being a really fun experience, giving us a chance to see another side of our team members beyond the classroom. We all agreed that having more of these events would be extremely beneficial. We believe it is important to see other sides of people you work with every day to develop empathy, become more open and relaxed, and ultimately create a better team dynamic. When we feel more comfortable around each other, we are also more likely to contribute ideas and voice our concerns. This is extremely important because our team's international mix means nothing if we all do not participate.

Another issue we discussed was scheduling meetings. Although we've had several, coordinating them has been challenging, and punctuality has occasionally been an issue. Improving our scheduling process by setting recurring meeting times or group reminders is a main goal for us. We also identified communication as an area for improvement, particularly in terms of keeping

each other updated on task progress and completion. Since many parts of the EDP process are sequential, better communication will help us stay on track.

The first team pit stop gave us the opportunity to reflect on our current team dynamics. Set specific goals to strengthen team chemistry, increase productivity, and establish more consistent meeting times. Lastly, we want to continue to work on the things we do well as a team, especially as we progress through the solutions stage.

