Today’s world is connected to everything in every possible way. To put it another way we live in an interconnected world. This being said it becomes vital to understanding this connectivity and the impact it can have on networks. By analyzing networks and the way they are connected we are able to understand the role key players have and identify their importance in the structure of that network. It is important to identify some key elements when analyzing a network to establish an understanding for the analysis. Identifying the node with the greatest number of contacts, the closeness or position to other nodes, and finally the idea or position of betweeness are all key considerations when analyzing a network.

An understanding of how a network flows, and who is connected to whom, is imperative if we are to understand who is important. We are able to analyze various networks given to us, thanks to the knowledge given to us by Dr. Shawn Trivette, and from that, determine who is valuable to the network.

In a network analysis determining who has the most connections is one of the first things that needs to be decided. In this model for instance, Dawn has the most connections in the network reaching six others. Because of the fact the she has the largest number of connections, this leads us to believe that her position makes her the most important node position.

Another thing that would determine closeness is the actual proximity between the nodes, so you would need to look at who has the quickest and easiest access to the most users in the network. Using the diagram given to us, we were able to deduce that Frank and Garret have the above listed qualities. Because Frank and Garret have the quickest and easiest access to their connections, it is entirely possible that they are in leadership positions. These positions in the network would need to have quick, easy access to certain people but not necessarily everyone in the company, like shown in the diagram.

Although multiple connections, quick and easy access, and close proximity are all very important, the ability to connect to the vast majority of all of the nodes in the network and being able to control the flow is just as, if not more important. For instance, terminating the betweeness node, you can get rid of the entire network, or at least cripple it severely. In the case of “Who is the boss?”, if you were to take out Haley’s connection, you would cripple the network.

Out of the four most central points in this network, Dawn’s connection is the most important. With Dawn’s connection you have a very efficient way of connecting all of the nodes because of her being connected to six. By taking out her connection, you cripple the entire company and its efficiency.

Understanding how and why we interact in a networkable setting provides access to some very important information. Network analysis allows us the ability to see the connections that are important in a corporate sense all the way down to our social lives.