CUTTING EDGE SOFT SKILLS ONLINE TRAINING MODULES
Marquita Walker, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Labor Studies, IU School of Social Work, IUPUI

Contact Information:
Email: marqwalk@iupui.edu
Phone: (317) 278-2066
Website: http://labor.iu.edu/

Address: 902 W. New York St. (ES4159), Indianapolis, IN 46202-5156

Industry Sector(s): Manufacturing
Product Category: Training & Development; Workforce Training

Opportunity Overview

Cutting Edge Soft Skills Online Training Modules are designed to teach behavioral skills through virtual interaction and provide to firms a quality and flexible learning solutions tool. This technology provides firms with initial and long-term support which focus on the broader parameters of organizational and behavioral changes and help firms understand how those competencies work together to create employees who can manage themselves and relate to others. Firms who invest in soft skill’s worker training have an advantage in the marketplace because their employees are better able to deal with intra-workplace conflict, engage in positive labor-management relationships, and contribute to the productivity and efficiency of the firm.

Markets & Applications

Employers demand educated workers trained in hard and soft skills for the technical and green jobs of the future. Interactive training modules providing essential instruction in soft skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and team development contribute to the development of a well-rounded employee who appreciates different perspectives, brings creativity and ingenuity to the work process, and solves problems in an amenable and efficient manner. As a result, this worker becomes an invaluable asset to the employer.

Competitive Advantage/Value Propositions

Cutting Edge Soft Skills Interactive online training modules:
- Are web-based, user-friendly, and tailored to adult learners
- Are available 24/7, reduce the cost of education and associated materials, alleviate travel to and from an educational institution, and negate child/elder care costs
- Are interactive thus allowing for active learning rather than passive learning
- Are grounded in theoretically based principles of adult learning suited to different learning styles
- Allow students to manage their own time, remain on task at their own pace, and revisit unclear or unfamiliar material
- Include testing components with instant feedback
CUTTING EDGE SOFT SKILLS ONLINE TRAINING MODULES, cont.

Researcher Biography

**Marquita Walker, Ph. D.**

Dr. Walker is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Labor Studies, School of Social Work, at Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis (IUPUI). She have been with IUPUI since August, 2008 and is responsible for teaching and coordination of credit and non-credit classes, scholarly research related to workers and their education, and service to the Labor Studies Department, the University, and the broader community. Dr. Walker comes from a manufacturing background in the private sector which includes extensive work with organized labor as a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW). Holding the various positions of chief steward, executive board member, bargaining committee member, and secretary, Dr. Walker is well-versed in the labor-management relationship and the art of negotiating labor-management contracts. Prior to teaching at IUPUI, Dr. Walker was an Assistant Professor of Labor Studies at the University of MO, Columbia and a Labor Educator at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. Prior to teaching labor education, Dr. Walker taught English literature and writing at Missouri State University and Drury University in Springfield, Missouri. Dr. Walker hold a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from the University of Missouri -- Columbia , an MA in Public Affairs from the Harry Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri , Columbia , an MA in English from Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield , Missouri , and a BS in English from Drury University in Springfield , Missouri . She is a member of the Pi Alpha Alpha, Labor and Employment Relation's Association (LERA), Canadian Industrial Relations Association (CIRA), Working Class Studies Association (WCSA), American Association of University Professors (AAUP), American Association of University Women (AAUW), and an associate member of the United Steel Workers.

Development Plans/Needs

1. To explore/collaborate/find a delivery platform suitable/adaptable for intermediaries (workforce development training, community colleges, advanced manufacturing training, labor union apprenticeships, and employers) for the delivery of Cutting Edge Soft Skills Interactive Training Modules

2. To find/collaborate/engage a graphic web designer/graphic gamer for consultation concerning the creation of website that showcases the functionality of course content and continuing support for the delivery of Cutting Edge Soft Skills Interactive Training Modules

3. To explore way to market this product and find potential users/consumers of Cutting Edge Soft Skills Interactive Training Modules