

## **Global Virtual Teams:**

## **How Talent Leaders Enhance Results**

October 9, 2015

Presented by:



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# **Objectives for Today**

- Learn how Talent Leaders can enhance global virtual team member results through 3P process and Diversity & Inclusion tools.
- Create an inclusive process for global virtual team success.
- Ensure that your senior management team is providing the resources, support, and talent to enhance virtual teams.
- Diagnose and address the most common challenges confronting global virtual teams.



# **About HUDSON Research & Consulting**

- Founded in 2004, HRC works with organizations and global teams to improve individual and team performance, leverage research, learning and OD practices.
- Clients include: Abbott, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Citibank, Chubb, Evonik, Estée Lauder Companies, MetLife, NRG Energy, Novartis, PepsiCo, and Pfizer.
- Our focus: practical solutions that align with strategic objectives.



# What is a Global Virtual Team (GVT)?

- A group of people who work together to achieve defined goals,
   with some or all team members separated by physical distance.
- Global Virtual Teams are separated by language, culture, timezones and competing local priorities.

....and Global Virtual Teams face all of the challenges common to all teams AND unique obstacles that co-located teams do not.



# **Virtual Teams: By the Numbers**

## 1) Purpose of Virtual Teams: Top Three

- to include talent in different geographic locations
- to boost collaboration among employees in different geographic locations
- to improve productivity (i.e., spend less time on commuting/travel)

## 2) Most Successful Behaviors: Top Three

- 72% Brainstorming solutions for problems or issues
- 68% Setting goals for team initiatives or projects
- 63% Developing plans for team initiatives or projects

Source: SHRM Virtual Teams, 2014



# Quick Poll: GVTs & Your Organization Today

### How many:

- Rely on global virtual teams extensively
- Use global virtual teams occasionally
- Expect to use global virtual teams going forward
- Other? Write in Chat Box



# **Global Virtual Teams are Increasing**

- 24/7 Operations
- Matrix Structures
- Flexible Work Arrangements
- Need for Greater Collaboration
- Contingent Workers
- "War for Talent"
- Technology
- Other factors in your organization: Write in Chat Box



## **Benefits of Global Virtual Teams**

- Harness the best talent, regardless of location.
- Gather diverse input for better innovation and problem solving.
- Promote work/life balance (but this can backfire).
- Leverage resources for cost-effectiveness.
- Enhance global vs. local integration issues.
- Accelerate product development and launch.
- Develop learning culture.
- Accelerate project productivity—complementary work cycles.



## **Common Challenges: Global Virtual Teams**

- Complexity
- Cross-cultural Misunderstandings
- Communications
- Slower Decisions
- More Conflict
- Competing Priorities
- Competition For Resources
- Time Zone Differences
- Lack of Team Skills
- Conflicting Roles and Responsibilities



## **Role of Talent Leaders**

Prepare organizations for success today & to transform for future requirements



... and with global virtual teams on the rise, talent leaders are key.



## Why Talent Leaders & Global Virtual Teams

- Identify hi-po talent
- Provide stretch assignments as part of succession planning
- Demonstrate HR's value to business results
- Build a global mindset
- Identify and share best practices
- Other factors in your organization: Write in Chat Box



# **Quick Poll: Key Benefits for Talent Leaders** to Enhance GVTs

## What are the top benefits that you anticipate:

- Demonstrate value to the business
- Enhance hipo development
- Provide exposure to global operations
- Other: Write in Chat Box



# **Talent Leaders**Building GVT Success Overview

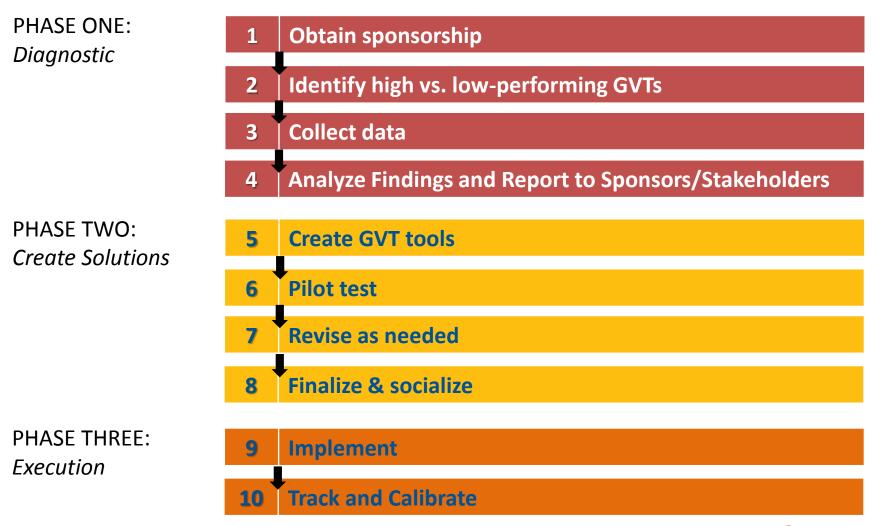
Build the Case

Define the Success Factors

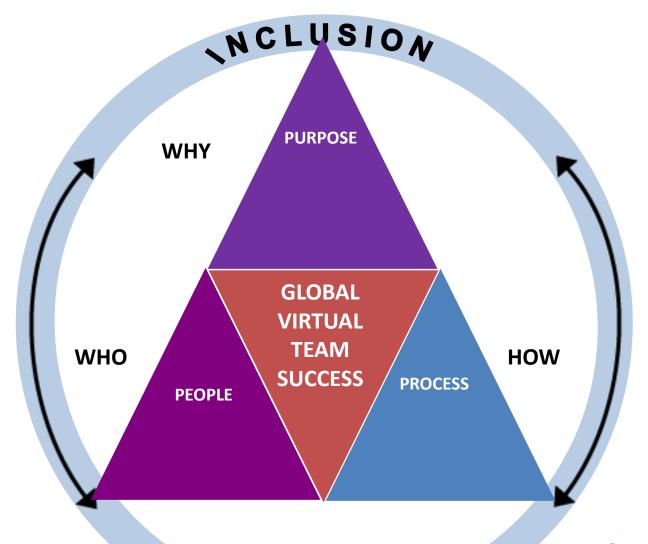
Create GVT Tools Drive Sustainable
Success



# GVT 10-Step Methodology for Talent Leaders



## A Model for Virtual Team Success

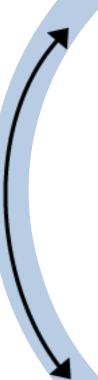






## Solutions: Build an Inclusive Culture

NCLUSION



- Ensure all voices are heard
- Conduct a cultural assessment (perceptions about hierarchy, courtesy, importance of task vs. people, direct vs. indirect communications, time management, etc.).
- Create an inclusive environment
- Be sensitive to language barriers/avoid slang
- Use text messages/ graphics
- · Involve everyone for best thinking
- Rotate teleconference times
- Know and Respect major holidays: http://www.worldtravelguide.net/public-holidays
- Learn correct pronunciation of names
- Find ways to learn and celebrate different cultures.





# **Global Virtual Team Case Examples**

## **EXAMPLE #1:** R & D teams in a pharma company

- Problems making decisions in a timely manner
- RESULT: Use model for shared decision making process and common goal setting.

## **EXAMPLE # 2: Global consumer products company**

- Accelerate product development and launch.
- RESULT: Improved cross-cultural team communication and innovation.

## **EXAMPLE # 3: Global chemical company**

- Missing deadlines/ finger-pointing
- RESULT: Improved customer focus & internal support



# **Purpose Solutions**

#### **BEFORE**

- Provide inclusive leaders training to global virtual team leaders
- Clearly communicate goals and obtain team member input
- Create a team charter

#### **DURING**

- Refer to goals and calibrate where needed
- Revisit goals as needed

#### **AFTER**

Assess degree of progress at key milestones and end



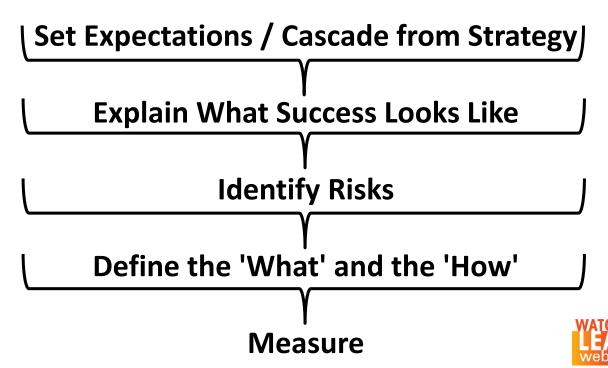


## Purpose Solutions: Ensure Goal Alignment





**OUT OF ALIGNMENT** 



# **People Solutions: Apply Development Stages to Global Virtual Teams**

#### **PERFORMING**

We work together as a high performing team and leverage our unique strengths/views

#### **NORMING**

I know the ground rules for communicating, governance, handling conflict

#### **FORMING**

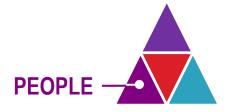
Do I belong?
Can I be on the team
and be productive on
my "regular job?"

Adapted from Irvin Yalom, the Theory and Practice of Group Psychotherapy



#### **STORMING**

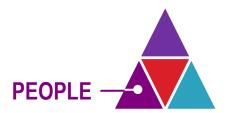
Will my ideas be heard? Will we share decision making?



# **People Solutions**

- Build Personal Connections
- Clarify Roles and Responsibilities
- Team Culture



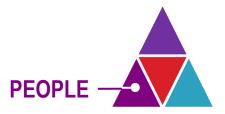


# People Solutions: Enhance Diverse Perspectives

- Use de Bono's Six Thinking Hats model:
  - =logical
  - = facts, figures and objectivity
  - =manage thinking process
  - positive & constructive
  - =creativity & new ideas
  - emotions and feelings
- Leverage the unique contributions different players/cultures can bring
- Encourage Constructive Conflict







- Celebrate successes
- Create a "virtual water cooler" to build connections
- Use technology to overcome barriers

What best practices have you implemented? Write in Chat Box.





## **Process Solutions**



- Accountability
- Resources

Stakeholders

- Meeting Agendas & Etiquette
- Technology
- Decision Making



# Process Solutions: Decision Rights PROCESS

## <u>DAI</u>

- D ecide
- A dvise
- **I** nform

### RAPID\*

- R ecommend
- A gree
- P erform
- **I** nput
- D ecide

### **Key Decision Pitfalls:**

- Lack of clarity
- Unclear accountability
- Too many/too few people weigh in

**Key Criteria:** One person has final decision; define roles & responsibilities.



<sup>\*</sup>Source: HBR, "Who Has the D?"

**Talent Leaders: Provide Online Scalable** 

**Tools Process People Purpose Team Assessment Cultural Competence** Governance **On-Boarding Global Virtual Teams Toolkit** 

#### **Consider:**

- ✓ Impact
- ✓ Frequency
- ✓ Difficulty



## **Lessons Learned for Talent Leaders**

- Provide tools and sustainable, scalable processes
- Create a learning culture
- Promote a global mindset
- Leverage Diversity & Inclusion
- Capture & share best practices across the enterprise
- Demonstrate your value to the business



# **Diagnosing Virtual Team Problems**

WHAT	POSSIBLE CAUSES
Lack of Collaboration	<ul> <li>Accountabilities may be unclear (Process)</li> <li>Team members may not feel respected (D&amp;I, People)</li> <li>Time zones or language barriers (D&amp;I, Process)</li> </ul>
Missing Deadlines or Key Deliverables	<ul> <li>Organizational barriers (Process)</li> <li>Deadlines may be unrealistic/Conflicting priorities (Purpose)</li> <li>Poor motivation (People)</li> </ul>
Recurring Conflicts	<ul> <li>Lack of trust (D&amp;I, People)</li> <li>Cultural misunderstandings (D&amp;I)</li> <li>Personality issues (People)</li> <li>Lack of a "path forward" (Process)</li> </ul>
Team Members "Missing In Action"	<ul> <li>Conflicting signals about priorities (Purpose)</li> <li>Low accountability (Purpose, Process)</li> <li>Lack of engagement (People)</li> </ul>

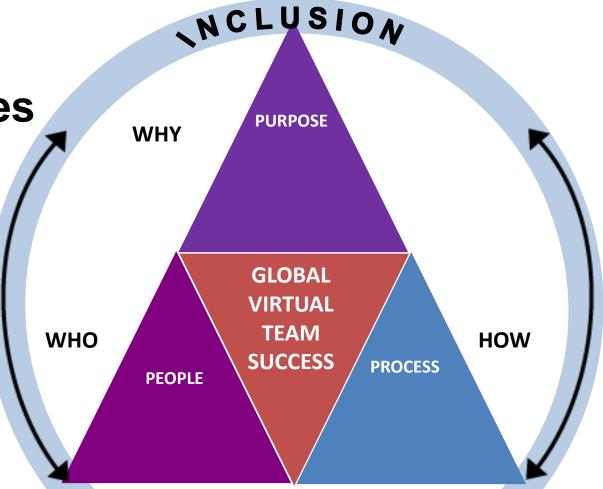


# **SWOT Analysis of your GVTs**

Strengths D&I/PURPOSE/PROCESS/PEOPLE	Opportunities D&I/PURPOSE/PROCESS/PEOPLE
Weaknesses D&I/PURPOSE/PROCESS/PEOPLE	Threats D&I/PURPOSE/PROCESS/PEOPLE



Addressing Team Challenges



# What's working (+) What should change (A)

- On target for deadlines
- Clear on Goals

- Burned out
- Need longer lead times







# **Recommended Reading**

#### **ARTICLES**

- Global Teams that Work, Tsedal Neeley, Harvard Business Review
- Managing the Matrix in the New Normal, Marjorie Derven, T+D Magazine
- Who Has the D: How Clear Decision Roles Enhance Organizational Performance, Paul Rogers & Marcia Blenko, Harvard Business Review
- How Diversity Makes Us Smarter, Katherine W. Phillips, Scientific American
- Getting Virtual Teams Right, Keith Ferrazzi, Harvard Business Review
- Diversity & Inclusion by Design: Best Practices from Six Global Companies Marjorie Derven, Industrial and Commercial Training

#### **BOOKS**

- Emotional Intelligence: Why it can Matter More than IQ, Daniel Goleman, Bantam Books, 1995
- Kiss, Bow or Shake Hands, Morrison & Conaway, Avon 2006
- A Manager's Guide to Virtual Teams, Yael Zofi, Amacom 2011
- Leveraging Diversity and Inclusion in a Global Economy, Marjorie Derven, E. Gundling and P. Leri, ATD Press

## Contact me for additional resources

- HUDSON Research & Consulting Global Virtual Team Action Planner
- Bibliography, online resources and videos
- T+D Article: "The Competitive Advantage of Diverse Perspectives," August 2013
- <u>Diversity Executive article</u>: Intentional Inclusion in the Workplace & Marketplace"
   May 2014







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## In Closing...

# Final Q&A

