

Serving Generational Differences in Times of Tight Budgets
October 1, 2010

## Ready or Not Here They Come "Generation Y"

Dr. Richard Vaughan (Boomer) (:-

## The Challenge!

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time in American History that 4 Distinct Generations have been in the work force at the same time.

## Clint Eastwood

Rawhide

Silent Generation

Dirty Harry

Baby Boomers

Gran Torino

Generation Y

Born 1930, 80 years old

#### **Labels & Dates**

- 1925-42 Silent Generation
- ■1943-64 Baby Boomers
- 1965-81 Generation X
- ■1982-93 Generation Y

#### **Silent Generation**

1925-42

- 27 Million
- Age 67 and older
- 6% of the Workforce
- Work hard / Respect authority
- Duty before fun / Adhere to rules

## **Baby Boomers**

- 1943-64
- 78 Million
- Age 45-66 42% of the Workforce
- Workaholics / Work Efficiently
- Crusade causes / Personal Fulfillment
- Question Authority

#### **Generation X**

- 1965- 1981
- 46 Million
- Age 28-43 28% of the Workforce
- Self Reliant
- Want direction / Skeptical of authority

#### **Generation Y**

- 1982-93
- 71 Million
- Age 27 < 24% of the Workforce</p>
- What's Next? / Multitasking
- Tenacity / Entrepreneurial
- Goal Orientated

## **Growing Up - Y**

- One out of four lives in a single parent household
- Three out of four have working mothers
- The child is the center of the household
- They are heavily influenced by their peers and the media
- 75%-90% have a computer at home
- 50% have Internet access at home

## Major Characteristics of -Y

- Racially and Ethnically Diverse, (1 in 3 is a minority)
- Extremely Independent- Divorce, Day care, single parents, latchkey parenting, and aided by the technological revolution
- Feel Empowered -Overindulgent parents, they have a sense of security and are optimistic about the future.

### Innovations that Shaped Gen Y

- 1 The Internet
- 2 Nintendo
- 3 Email
- 4 Cell phones
- 5 Laptops
- 6 Google
- 7 iPod
- 8 P2P Networks

- 9 Blogs
- 10 High-speed Internet
- 11 Facebook
- 12 WiFi
- 13 Streaming Media
- 14 iPhone
- 15 Twitter

# **Educating Gen Y**

- Attentional Deployment—able to shift their attention rapidly
- Fast Response Time—they are able to respond quickly and expect rapid responses in return
- Ability to Read Visual Images—intuitive visual communicators
- Inductive Discovery—they learn better through discovery than by being told
- Visual-spatial skills—they can integrate the virtual and physical

## Change is Expected

- Gen -Y's don't expect to stay in a job, or even a career, for too long —
- Nor do they want to!
- Corporate scandals made them skeptical when it comes to such concepts as employee loyalty.

# Nothing Amazes a Gen-Y

- Expect continued leaps in Technology
- All about Speed and Access
- No patience for any delay!
- Video games and the Net

#### Y = Green

- Y's grew up Volunteering and Recycling
- 83.3% of incoming freshman reported they frequently /occasionally volunteered
- Nearly 4/5 say they want to work for a company that cares about how it affects or contributes to society
- 68% said they would refuse to work for an employer that is not socially responsible.

#### **Trends in Recruitment**

#### IBM's Brochures

- Highlight the company's involvement in green technology:
- Tag line- "You will make a difference...you might contribute on a grand scale or perhaps influence the life of a single individual."

#### **Trends in Recruitment**

Xerox is using the slogan "Express Yourself" as a way to describe its culture to recruits.

Aflac is highlighting such perks as time off given as awards, flexible work schedules and recognition.

#### **Trends in Recruitment**

Merrill Lynch Y Recruiting booth

- Highlights Global Philanthropy
- Teaching children about personal finance and entrepreneurship.
- Environmental Efforts, from providing mass transit incentives to employees to studying wind turbines.

#### Retention

#### **Deloite Study**

"Two-thirds of the people who left Deloitte left to do something they could have done with us, but we made it difficult for them to transition." Deloitte developed a program to help Gen –Y employees figure out their next career move. This saves the company the \$150,000 cost of losing an employee.

## 7 Tips to Engage Gen Y's

- 1. Encourage their values: They want to be heard!
- 2. Train Them: Complete training and availability of answers is the key.
- 3. Mentor Them: Do not be afraid to give feedback, positive or negative. Make their work valid.

## 7 Tips to Engage Gen Y's

- 4. Show them how Their Work will contribute to the bottom line:
- Provide Full Disclosure: If they feel you are not truthful, they will not be satisfied.
- 6. Create Customized Career Paths: Create a sense of control, progress and a future.
- 7. Provide Access to Technology: Newest technology will attract and retain.

# "What we got here is a Failure to Communicate!"

- Boomers and Y's (Parent / Child)
- Gen Ys have grown up getting constant feedback and recognition from teachers, parents and coaches and can resent it or feel lost if communication from bosses isn't more regular.
- 60% > of employers say they are experiencing tension between employees from different generations

#### Gen Y Profile Christa

What I want in a employer

- Trust
- Open -Mindedness
- Dedication
- Flexible Work Schedules
- Training Dollars in New Technology

#### Gen Y Profile Jacie

#### What I want in a employer

- Opportunity for Growth and Advancement
- Social Responsibility
- Good image/reputation
- Good Pay with Benefits
- Recognition and Respect
- To be Challenged
- Fair and Ethical
- To provide opportunities to make a difference and leave a positive impact

#### Gen Y Profile Dan

- My perspective on Gen Y
- Graduate School versus Work Experience
- What I want in a Employer
  - Honesty and authenticity
  - Mentoring
  - Cross-training opportunities
  - Work life balance and flexibility

## Be Nice to a Gen Y

You may work for one some day.





- Diana Oblinger, "Boomers, Gen-Xers, and Millennials: Understanding the 'New Students,'" EDUCAUSE Review, vol. 38, no. 4 (July/August 2003), pp. 37–47, <a href="http://www.educause.edu/apps/er/erm03/erm034.asp">http://www.educause.edu/apps/er/erm03/erm034.asp</a>.
- \*Source: The Millennials: Americans Born 1977 to 1994; Bureau of Census: A Childs Day, 2000
- Generation Y: They've arrived at work with a new attitude. By Stephanie Armour, USA TODAY
- Institute for Supply Management™. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission from the publisher, the Institute for Supply Management™.
- \*Source: The Millennials: Americans Born 1977 to 1994; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2003