

MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGING DEMANDS ON PREPARING A LOGISTICIAN

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It wouldn't be exaggeration to say that nowadays teaching logisticians has changed dramatically as it's not enough any more to teach them some basic warehouse rules and requirements but to concentrate on teaching total supply chain management, materials handling, warehousing, transportation and so on.

Furthermore, such key management skills as leadership, collaboration, teamwork, and team building are becoming of more and more importance. According to Amanda Loudin and Brooks A. Bentz "With the current industry-wide emphasis on supply chain collaboration, students have to understand fundamental concepts as organizational behavior, and how to mobilize people with different functional expertise, responsibilities, and performance measures." [1]

Global challenges and fast growth of logistics sphere make the educators find the answers to many tough questions, such as "What skills do logistics students need to succeed in their careers? What are future employers looking for? How to be able to meet the requirements of international companies? How to be aware of the niceties of cross-cultural management? How to keep up with the current trends in packaging and new materials for it? What software should be mastered? What tools should be used to measure employees performance? Is being team-oriented valued?"

Any educational establishment coaching future logisticians should be focused on fostering "the ability to use analytical tools to identify possible solutions to operational and strategic problems" [1] to prepare students for the "real world". The role of academic knowledge shouldn't be underestimated but the students ought to be given a fundamental practical toolkit that will enable them not

only to start their career successfully but to encourage them to continue learning throughout their careers.

This barest necessity can be attained by broadening and diversifying the learning experience. Using the advantages of agile development of Technologies, Internet and personal gadgets; interactive methods of teaching including discussions of international examples and cases; paying special attention to fostering active team players with sound team-building skills; teaching the students how to search for information and analyze it to predict the development of different imbroglios seem to be the only way to attain the goal of preparing competitive logisticians.

As I specialize in teaching Business English I will dwell on peculiarities of this subject. Nowadays teachers can be more efficient with class time if they redistribute learning material and tasks. With the abundance of Grammar Books and Internet teaching resources (including interactive drilling exercises) the teacher can save class time for improving other aspects rather than spending a lot of time on Grammar exercises. This redirecting of attention can lead to getting more time for a greater focus on analytical, conceptual, and team-building skills. Taking into consideration the specialization such topics as Supply Chain Management, Production Logistics, Transport Modes, Warehousing, and Sustainability can have a lot of opportunities for class discussions and group work. It may be essential to draw the students' attention to development of cross border activities to improve the country's competitiveness by employing the potential and beneficial location on the crossroads between EU and the Russian Federation. The discussions can be transformed into oral simulations in small groups where each group is given a logistics problem and the task to find the best possible solutions. Such activities are in compliance with the basic concept of quantitative approaches to decision-making the main aim of which is to provide students with a sound conceptual understanding of the role that management science plays in the decision making process. It also gives deeper understanding the necessity of the a wide variety of

quantitative techniques application to find solutions to business and economic problems.

Involving students in grading the case study summaries, keeping track of class participation and rolling up all the grades from the presentations can give them first experience of evaluating their peers/colleagues. It should be mentioned that getting feedback after class session will help the educator to be kept abreast of the student and groups dynamics.

Taking everything into consideration we should aim at preparing a logistician who is able to interact with people inside and outside the firm, who can deal with many variables and compose a contingency plan to fall back on, who understands the fundamental concepts of organizational behavior and is able to mobilize people with different functional expertise, responsibilities, and performance measures. It's essential for a specialist in Logistics to have a good command of optimization-based approaches and to be good at robust planning, to understand the basic principles such as cost trade-offs, process management concepts and postponement, supply chain management collaboration, warehousing cost analysis, and reverse returns and functional integration. What is more the ability to communicate the results of work accurately using well structured and sound arguments; showing study autonomy and alacrity to undertake further trainings to develop new skills contribute substantially to ensuring successful career.

Список использованной литературы.

1. <http://www.inboundlogistics.com/cms/article/logistics-goes-to-the-head-of-the-class/>
2. http://sprachausbildung.tu-dresden.de/templates/tyModulDetail.php?modul_id=1176&topic=spa_kursangebot&sprache=18
3. <https://steveblank.com/2010/03/29/teaching-entrepreneurship-logistics/>