Overview
This session is structured as managed, open discussion about IT teams frames by two interactive exercises and a walk through of key questions.

The questions listed below provide a pool of questions the presenters will use based on the direction of the group discussion.

Outline

- Introduction
  - Presenters share their stories—getting oriented to the subject
- Warm up table exercise: The power of teams in practice (Quiz 1 solo then Quiz 2 together)
- Workshop questions: 6-10 key question presented for discussion, with variable activities and supported through research. Each question will produce a recommendation that will filter into a summative description of the power of teams.
- Summary, outcomes and next steps

Question Pool
We will draw upon these questions through discussion to unlock the answer to the question:

Where is the power in teams?

- What makes a successful team?
- Should teams be goal-based, project-based? Standing?
- How big can a team be? What is the ideal team size?

Table Exercise

How do you support and manage successful teams?

- What project tools work best for effective teams?
- How do you assemble a successful team? Who are the members?
- How do you build a team that understands what everyone else on the team does?
- How do you lead an effective team?
- How do you build and support an organization that lets teams thrive?
● How do teams hold team members accountable?
● When are teams the wrong solution?
● What drives a team’s direction? The client? The project? Leadership? The team?
● How should teams communicate? What tools work?
● Virtual versus face-to-face team--which is better? Why?
● What is “team building”? How does it work? How do you promote it? What doesn’t work?

**Key Ideas to Explore/Unearth**

● Effective teams are great at problem solving
● The room is always smarter than you/the whole is greater than the sum of the parts
● Groups do not equal teams
● Teams of specialists are not always true teams

**Outcomes**

● Define at team
● How to Organize effective team
● How to Manage a team (both inside the team and outside)

**Exercises**

● Individual and then team table quiz
● Team-built tower

**Program Listing**

In higher education, IT’s fundamental goal is to help further the institution’s mission. Collaboration with stakeholders helps IT navigate various needs, obstacles, politics, and constraints to help our customers achieve their goals. However, IT professionals often focus on technology at the expense of collaboration and trust. But we can all change this! In this session, we will focus on the importance and benefits of teams; identify team types, including cross-functional teams and the role of the team leader; discuss barriers to success; and engage in shaping a successful team.

**OUTCOMES:** Develop a better understanding of team dynamics * Identify team strategies of planning, collaboration, and execution * Practice teamwork to accomplish specific outcomes

**Additional Resources**
Quizzes used (with answers)

Quiz 1

True or False:
- The first president of Zimbabwe was President Banana
- Russia has a larger surface area than Pluto.
- Oxford University is older than the Aztec Empire.
- Nintendo started as a trading card company.
- Nowhere in the Humpty Dumpty Nursery Rhyme does it say that Humpty Dumpty is an egg.

Solve each of these Letter Equations (For example, 365 D in a Y = 365 Days in a Year)

- 24 H in a D
- 26 of the A
- 7 D of the W
- 12 S of the Z
- 64 S on C B

Quiz 2

True or False

- Scotland’s national animal is the unicorn.
- The Beach Boys recorded a song written by Charles Manson.
- Liberia was once terrorized by General Butt Naked
New Hampshire license plates with the slogan “Live Free or Die” are manufactured by state prison inmates.

Charlie Chaplin entered a contest for “Charlie Chaplin look-alikes” and he came in third.

Solve each of these Letter Equations (For example, 365 D in a Y = 365 Days in a Year)

- 52 C in a D (without J)
- 13 S on the US F
- 18 H on a G C
- 5 T on a F
- 90 D in a R A

**Quiz Key:**

All statements are true!

H in a D
A: 24 Hours in a Day

L of the A
A: 26 Letters of the Alphabet

7 D of the W
A: 7 Days of the Week

12 S of the Z
Signs of the Zodiac

64 S on C B
A: 64 square on a chessboard

52 C in a D (without J)
52 Cards in a Deck (without Jokers)

13 S on the US F
13 Stripes on the United States Flag

18 H on a G C
18 Holes on a Golf Course

5 T on a F
A: 5 Toes on a Foot
90 D in a R A
A: 90 Degrees in a Right Angle