# Difficult Conversations // Skills





# **OVERVIEW**

This one day workshop gives participants the opportunity to learn a common language and set of skills and tools for holding productive conversations with peers and managers that builds mutual understanding and commitment.

# By the end of this workshop participants will be able to:

- Describe the impact of inferences and assumptions on communication
- Identify the common biases that limit understanding and what we can do to overcome them
- Define the importance of objective vs. subjective integrity and the value of trust in conversations that matter

- Apply the skills of inquiry and advocacy during difficult conversations
- Recognize and adjust to different communication styles to increase mutual understanding
- Articulate the issue that is of concern in order to increase their effectiveness

# PROGRAM FLOW: KEY CONTENT AREAS

#### Welcome

Introduction, learning objectives

## **Introduction to Model**

- The Three Key Areas
- Define conversations that matter
- Go Figure activity Accelerating understanding

#### Ladder of Indifference

- Uncritical Inference test
- Ladder of Inference
- Confirmation bias
- Tools of inquiry and advocacy

# Integrity

- Subjective and objective integrity
- Taking accountability for what you say

# **Inquiry Skills**

- Assessment
- Classic listening skill review

## **Advocacy Skills**

- Assessment
- Questioning Skills our parents are to blame
- Curse of Knowledge activity
- What's the Issue and Impact?
- Practice applying advocacy and listening skills in trios

### **Communication Styles**

- Color lingo assessment
- Style activity
- Difficult conversation tendencies

# **Workshop Close**

- Job aid
- Workshop evaluation