

## CHAPTER 9: ENTHUSIASTIC

### Your Heart is the Source of Energy for the Team

Enthusiasm is that 'certain something' that permeates the atmosphere to take a project from mediocre to excellent. An enthusiastic working environment brings excitement and energy that help motivate everyone involved in the task or project. In relation to team work John Maxwell wrote that "[w]hen the members of a team are enthusiastic, the whole team becomes highly energized. And that energy produces power."

Team members who possess an enthusiastic attitude share several common characteristics. They:

1. *Take Responsibility for Their Own Enthusiasm* – Attitude is a choice, including enthusiasm. They choose to exude a positive and upbeat attitude on their own and not wait for outside validation or positive influences. They rely on themselves and take responsibility for their choices.
2. *Act Their Way into Feeling* – They take the initiative in developing an enthusiastic outlook and not rely on enthusiasm to propel them to action.
3. *Believe in What They Do* – They concentrate on the positive aspects of work and avoid dwelling on the negative.
4. *Spend Time with Other Enthusiastic People* – A positive energy will travel from person to person and if you surround yourself with enthusiastic people, the outcome will be spectacular.

To improve your enthusiasm:

- *Show a sense of urgency* – setting a deadline for a project will help you reenergize and prioritize, thus increasing your level of energy.
- *Be willing to do more* – go above and beyond the call of duty to show the team your invaluable input, your enthusiasm for your work will transfer onto your teammates.
- *Strive for excellence* - do not settle for mediocrity, strive to do and be the best you can.

#### **Application:**

Enthusiasm is evident in the dedication of every member of the Arkansas 21C Network to the cause of improving the lives and education of all children. Without the beliefs, positive attitude and energy expressed by all involved the 21C initiative would not reach the level of success it has.

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