Tina Brush brings education to the workplace

By Matt Shinnall
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Currently working with the Georgia Highlands College Department of Continuing Education, Dr. Tina Brush continues a career of education focused on improving the way we work. Leading seminars, workshops and conferences in the art of personal and organizational development, Brush aims to improve companies and organizations by helping employees succeed.

Through a mix of interactive exercises, academic research and lectures, Brush teaches others the basics they need to develop creative problem solving, conflict management and leadership skills applicable to their line of work.

For a full list of training opportunities with Brush at GHC, visit www.highlands.edu/sit/continuing-education.

Name: Tina Brush
Occupation/Title: Contract Trainer and Consultant, Georgia Highlands College — Continuing Education
City of Residence: Emerson
Family: Married 26 years to Ed Brush; three children in our family; Adam, graduate of KSU, working in Marketing/Real Estate Sales at Waterside North and married to Jamie with two precious little boys Drake and Jacob; Rachel, graduate of UGA and working in Washington, D.C., as an international trade consultant for Securus Trade; Ryan, junior at UGA majoring in biological engineering
Education: Ph.D. in Business Administration (HR and International Business) and MBA (Georgia State University) and BA in Journalism (University of Georgia)
Age: 60

What led you to a career in personal and organizational development?
A: In graduate school, I worked with consultants and trainers and learned from some of the best in the industry. I have been involved in training and development since the beginning of my career and have worked with organizations in the Mid-western and Southeastern United States as well as overseas. I enjoy working with organizations to help them find ways to develop competitive advantages based on the way they manage their human resources.

How do your programs and courses effect change in an organization?
A: Change is something most people find challenging — it’s a gradual process. Many of the leadership trends we see today have their roots in research conducted back in the 1940s! That shows you how long it takes for new ideas to be implemented. What I do is like planting seeds and cultivating new growth — helping individuals find new and better ways of dealing with the age-old problem of aligning individual efforts with the organization’s goals and moving forward. Today, we are being challenged by the competitive realities of the 21st century and the expectations of the new workforce. I try to help people make sense of the situations they face and guide them to come up with new solutions that help them and their organizations succeed.

What is the most rewarding part of your role in the community?
A: Being able to make a positive contribution in our community through my work at the Chamber and Georgia Highlands makes me feel good. I’m an academic entrepreneur — I love seeing ideas applied successfully. I use my knowledge and experience to meet real needs and get results. At Georgia Highlands, we have been able to offer state-of-the-art supervisory/managerial training that is accessible, convenient and affordable. Former participants in our programs keep me updated on their progress and achievements — that means a lot to know that they feel I have made a difference to their careers.

We are accomplishing amazing things at the Chamber. My work with the Leadership Bartow program, youth and adult, helps develop emerging leaders who will continue making Bartow a strong and vibrant county. Seeing the enthusiasm for the Lunch and Learn programs I conduct and targeted toward our vital small business community has been amazing. Being a part of the excitement of Bartow Village at the Atlanta Steeplechase has been incredible — individuals, businesses, restaurants and organizations in our county are working together to showcase all that our county has to offer. We have so much to look forward to in Bartow County and I am thrilled to be able to play a role in preparing people to take advantage of the opportunities that are coming our way.

What one thing would you like employers to understand about leadership training?
A: Developing leaders is a process that occurs in context and only GHC should be viewed as a partner in the process. When you send people to our development programs, become involved in setting expectations for their participation in the program and support them when they return to work and apply the skills they have learned. Most people leave my programs with plans to implement when they return to work and I often get feedback on their progress and results. I’ve even had some of their bosses talk to me about how they can help them apply what they have learned in my workshops.

The best advice you’ve ever been given?
A: My parents taught me I will always learn more from failures and that I can accomplish anything I set my mind to if I am willing to put forth the effort. Their wisdom has served me well throughout my life.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you?
A: I’m pretty much an open book — there’s not a lot people don’t know about me, but you may be surprised to know that I used to be horribly shy and totally afraid to speak up at a meeting or in front of a class. My first quarter as a teacher was a disaster and I still feel badly for the students in my first class. Over the years I forced myself to speak to all kinds of groups and ultimately overcame my fear. Today, I can speak to hundreds of people without worrying about it.

Where is your favorite place to be in Bartow County?
A: Home with my family, preferably on a warm sunny day — grilling outside and just enjoying life.

What would you consider your greatest personal or professional achievement?
A: Personally, I am most proud of my children and love watching them grow into wonderful adults who are achieving their dreams. Professionally, my greatest achievement is being recognized as an outstanding teacher who has made a difference.

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