ABSTRACT

Many of today’s college graduates are unprepared for the workforce. They have completed their degrees and are fully equipped with the necessary technical skills, but they lack the skills needed for success within an office environment. Skills such as leadership, teamwork, effective communication, or problem solving skills are all necessary functions for success in many business positions and lacking these skills leads to a gap that the workplace must face as they try to mold and develop the new generation of workers.

Our group thesis proposed the idea of hosting a professional development month complete with workshops on various soft skills or knowledge areas that employers are looking for in candidates. As the Belk College of Business grows in size, there should be a shift towards implementing professional development events to shape the next generation of graduates outside of technical courses. By initiating this event, we hope it will be revived in the coming years to continue to provide the resources necessary to the undergraduates of the college as they prepare for life after graduation. There were many stages to the planning of this event, and while we were faced with challenges we have identified these pitfalls in an effort for the next class that may host this event to review and make the necessary changes needed.