Reflection Essay

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I.   Introduction

A painstaking examination of my degree program reveals that it is arguably the best choice I took with regards its capacity to imbue in me skills that correspond to the genuine and real-time needs of the contemporary job market. The rationale is that through it, I have been able to develop a rare blend of critical thinking, problem solving, and adaptability and technology use skills coupled with the skill of collaboration within team settings which are key to any employment opportunity of our time. Within the purview of this e-portfolio which according to Bonsignore (2013) enables me to showcase my skills level to prospective employers, three artifacts that correspond to these acquired skills are imperative. The first artifact are projects/presentations, the second a collection of hands-on work presented in PowerPoint format and the third collection of essays to showcase my writing skills. While these skills correspond to the requirements highlighted within these stated artifacts, it is worth noting that they are largely drawn from the relatively large nexus of interdisciplinary programs jointly comprising the degree program and related courses I pursued.

II.   An In-depth Examination of the Skillset in Alignment with the Select Artifacts

It is imperative to observe that this e-portfolio presents an array of skills that were developed across time as I progressively pursued my line of professional degree program. Aware that it presents me with the opportunity to share with prospective employers a somewhat dynamic projects howbeit in multimedia format (Bosignore, 2013), it is important to emphasize that it presents my major career milestones and the process I followed towards aligning with this career trajectory. Against this backdrop, the following subsections present a detailed reflection of

the professional skills I acquired in alignment in alignment with their place within my three selected artifacts of importance to this e-portfolio.

i. Writing Skills

One of the most pertinent skill I acquired while undertaking my professional development studies at the university is a advanced writing skill. Within this purview, I present these skills as one skillset due to the realization that as I progressively pursued my studies including completing course assignments, I was able to grow in writing with this attendant skills engendering in me problem-solving skills as well. While it is important to point out that this array of skillset was developed across time and incrementally across the course program, it is also crucial to emphasize that I identified it as an important skillset early in my course due to my reflective learning ambiance that according to Kimball (2003) enabled me to appropriately identify, learn and discuss my professional skills strengths early in time. Identifying the skillset early in time prepared me to take up challenging assignments, course projects and simulation exercises which I considered to be increasingly important in nurturing this skillset over time. Nonetheless, the process was not a walk in the park since I had to free up most of my free time to undertake private or individual studies where I would diligently indulge in completing as many exercises from the course pertaining essay writings as possible. This endeavor was largely informed by avid readership of relevant material pertaining the skillset most employers require from jobseekers in the contemporary job market. It is in this light that I invested most of my time keeping within the advice by Harper (2012) which calls for those preparing to keep away from the challenge of skills mismatch to meticulously interrogate and identify skills possessed by successful candidates in recruitment activities of various companies. To keep within the wavelength of the advice advanced by Harper (2012), I would almost always free up at least two

hours a day for a cumulative four years period writing on job descriptions of current employees of companies employing professionals within my professional skills domain. Within group discussion forums which I believed presented me with the opportunity to develop team working skills, I would most often than not develop simulation exercises at times undertaken through role-playing aimed at exercising the critical thinking aspect in divergent problem-solving scenarios.

Within the ambit of my selected artifacts collection, it is worth noting that this writing skills does not easily manifest in some of the artifacts but presents exquisitely in others. The rationale for this observation is that this skill is increasingly practical more than it can be theoretically presented hence limiting its presentation within my projects. Nevertheless, my projects as one of the three artifacts shows within my skills section that one of my key skills strengths is in this type of skill (critical thinking and problem solving). However, within my projects's corpus, I only show that an area I have consistently displayed this type of skill is in scenarios requiring me to promptly solve problems calling for unfamiliar actions or in solving problems that present in an impromptu ambiance. It is the reason I cite debating especially on futuristic and current socio-economic problems such as on the phenomenon of global warming and environmentalism in the era of sustainability as one of my favorite activities within my projects. However, it is my professional career objectives statement artifact that lucidly delineates this skillset in exquisite fashion. Here, I have listed that one of my main professional objectives is to solve some of the world's most pressing problems including embarking on the search for a panacea to the problem of irresponsible waste disposal especially within the developing world through technology-oriented commercial solutions.

    ii.   **Teamwork Skills**

Surveys taken pertaining skills employers demand in those they seek to recruit in particular job positions show that skills mismatch is a serious hamper to effective employee integration in ongoing projects within companies. However, a key factor highlighting this challenge of skills mismatch is the incapacity of graduating students entering the job market to appropriately work with others theoretical aspects of their professional courses to the practical requirements of the job market (Harris and Clayton, 2018). Aware that I would have to appropriately adapt in line with the requirements of my future job offers, honing my workmanship skills has always been a top priority within my scale of professional career preferences. The statement of my professional objectives or goals artifact presents this skill in a more elaborate way than the way it is presented in my project's artifact or in the career objectives artifact. Within this artifact (statement of professional objectives), I have clearly highlighted that one of my goals is collabotate with coworkers to working in dynamic teams in solving problems that require high levels of teamwork skills with little or scant time required to familiarize with the challenge. In other words, my statement of professional objectives highlights that I endeavor to work in dynamic areas that call for prompt solutions to problems that do not bestow me maximum time to settle or research for solutions. One of the reasons that ever pushed me towards working hard to nurture this skill is the realization that employees who require a long time to adapt to changing conditions within their job designations are more likely than not to be rendered unemployed (Harris and Clayton, 2018). The rationale is that the contemporary world of employment and industry is largely characterized by change and any job offer to an employee who does not easily adapt is likely to be elusive with only those who easily adapt likely to be outright beneficiaries of such job offers (Harris and Clayton, 2018).

   iii.   **Hands-On Experience Skills**

One of the most potent skills a modern employee must possess is hands-on skills. According to a postulation by Bonsignore (2013), the current crop of job seekers is best served by being tech-savvy since nearly every area of work in contemporary day calls for technology application or integration be it in data storage, data collection, and analysis of work-related results or any other area of work. Aware that anyone seeking to be integrated into the current job market as demonstrated in many job adverts must have excellent skills in using various latest technologies (Harris and Clayton, 2018), I was ardently preoccupied in learning new computer skills throughout my degree program. In specificity, I took up challenging assignments that required I complete as many exercises in excel files format, familiarized myself with activities that required assignments to be presented in PowerPoint format and stringently learned how to use online citation tools. In specificity, the rationale for learning how to use the latter (online citation tools) appropriately was to ensure I developed appropriate technology skills that would enable me to be better positioned to write professional reports for organizations I would work for in the future. Within my artifacts, my assignments artifact only presents this skill briefly in such wordings as "I am well versed in various computer programs including VMware, Linux/Ubuntu, Adobe, and MS Access." However, my statement of professional goals highlights that it is my goal to become as technologically proficient as I will be able to with my career objectives also outlining that I desire to learn more to become as technologically proficient as possible.

Conclusion

This reflection exercise is a detailed discussion of my skills proficiency delineated within the ambit of three artifacts these being my projects, a statement of professional goals and my career objectives document that is in PowerPoint format. It details the process I underwent in

acquiring such skills while highlighting the rigors I had to keep with for these objectives to be

realized in the long run.

References

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