



# Project Framework Internship

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# Sandia National Laboratories

- Location: Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Workforce Make-up:
  - 11,700 employees
  - 90% of employees have some sort of degree
    - 38% of those degrees are a Master's of Science or Art
- Funding:
  - U.S. Department of Energy
- Operated & Managed by Sandia Corporation
  - Subsidiary of Lockheed Martin Corporation
  - Contractor of U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



# What does Sandia do?

- National Security
  - “Exceptional service in the national interest.”
- Delivers essential science and technology to resolve the nation’s most challenging security issues
- Mission

“As a multidisciplinary national laboratory and federally funded research and development center, Sandia accomplishes tasks that are integral to the mission and operation of our sponsoring agencies by

  - Anticipating and resolving emerging national security challenges
  - Innovating and discovering new technologies to strengthen the nation’s technological superiority
  - creating value through products and services that solve important national security challenges
  - Informing the national debate where technology policy is critical to preserving security and freedom throughout our world.”  
(<http://www.sandia.gov/about/mission/index.html>)

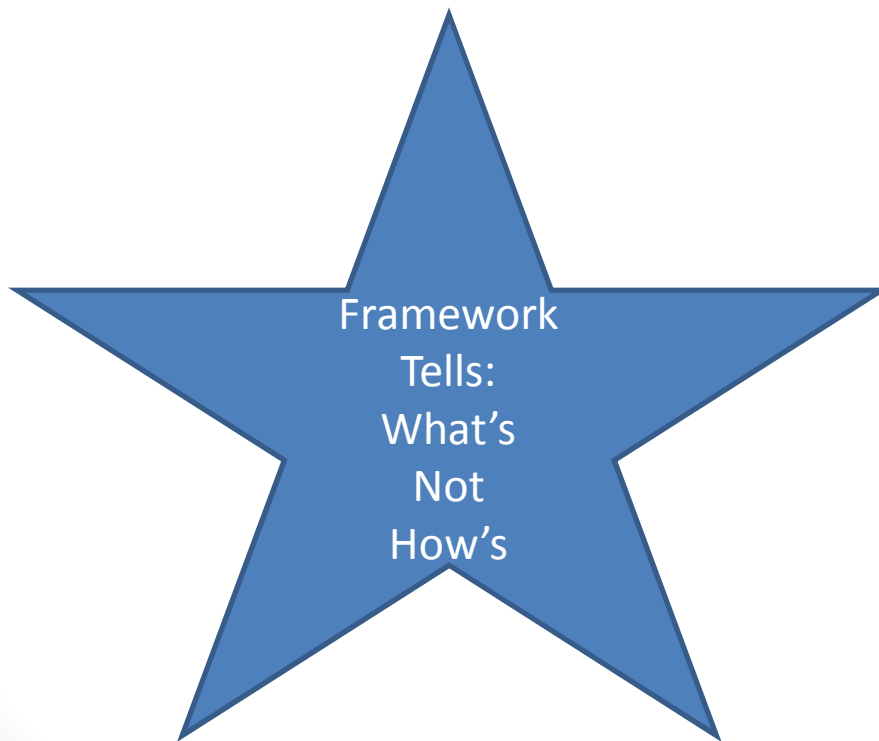
# How does a business department fit in?

- Each organization within the labs has a business support group.
- Business support made up of:
  - Managers
  - Center Business Analyst
  - Business Professionals
  - Financial Analyst
  - Project Controllers
  - Project Managers



# Project Framework

- Set up to be a consistent, predictable process for managing projects across Sandia.
- Graded approach to manage projects through their lifecycles.



- Two steps:
  - 1) Complete project rigor evaluation (PRE) tool
  - 2) Plan and execute the project

# My Role

- Part of a business support team to help implement new policy
  - Plan to carry out implementation
  - Define project
- Worked with center project controller
  - Researched what stakeholders expected
  - Became subject matter expert on project framework
  - Began implementation with one project
- Information Sessions
  - Set up division wide presentations to inform members of the workforce
  - Created presentation for division support group
  - Presented to upper level management

# Skills Used

- Research
- Business writing
- Public speaking
- Project Management
- Value added/Earned Value Management
- Negotiation/delivering bad news



# Lessons Learned About Myself

- Strengths
  - Organization
  - Looking at the big picture of the process
  - Understanding processes
  - Communication
  - People skills
  - Willingness to learn
- Weaknesses
  - Confidence
  - Comfort in public speaking
  - Wanting to solve every problem with one process

# Future

- Making the right choice to continue on with my Master's in Project Management
- Can see where I could help make an impact with Sandia



What would I do differently or should do in the future?

- Speak up more often
- Offer
- to present more so I could improve my skills

# Biggest Takeaway

- Bigger career network
- Experience of seeing an amazing business professional and how they handle tough situations
- Confidence built in my work quality
- Opportunities for improvement in project management



# Academia vs. Real Life

- Similarities
  - Individuals in groups do not always have the same commitment level
  - Deadlines must be met
- Differences
  - Group work not forced so easier to have alignment
  - Greater satisfaction because impact made
  - All situations are different and not so easily solved

# Thank you

Professor Kline for allowing me to take on this opportunity.

John Weaver for his willingness to take on teaching me, being an exceptional mentor, and an even better example of a true business professional.

Duff Lill for taking the time to supervise, advise, and encourage me.

Jim Redmond for letting me take time away from my daily job duties, allowing me to explore what career path I would like to follow, and for the constant encouragement and faith in me.

