“Leveraging Leadership Labs to reinforce the teaching of Leadership Capabilities to future Engineering Leaders”

The objective of this work is to use an innovative approach to teach future Engineering Leaders character and attitude, to supplement the necessary technical and Product Development skills which are also taught in a course targeted at early career engineers with around five years experience in industry.

Leadership Laboratories are far more than interactive exchanges amongst the students, they are performance oriented. After discussing and describing a leadership activity students must then practice the activity and demonstrate the leadership activity at a level between proficiency and mastery, feedback is enhanced using a structured after action review process.

The paper details how this innovation, bringing organizational psychology into an engineering curriculum, is being applied and deployed by detailing three example topics: “The Leadership Operational Framework,” “Power and Influence” and “Situational Leadership.”

This methodology is being successfully deployed in a Graduate Program with positive results as judged by both participating engineers and by their employers.

(Innovation in Education section)