



INTERNATIONAL

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Sun Microsystems Mini MBA

Award Winning and First of its Kind in Silicon Valley

The Information Resources Department (IR) is responsible for the internal computer hardware and software on which Sun Microsystems function. The phrase was, "Running Sun on Sun". It is a big and vital job!

David Wick was asked to consult with a high level, cross-organizational IR team to create a powerful learning experience for their high potential managers and project leads. The purpose was to give them greater financial and business savvy so they can work more effectively with their internal clients. This also helped develop a well-planned promotional path within IR. David was asked to create a program that would include many of the subjects found in a University MBA course, but without the time and expense involved. He accepted the challenge and went to work.

After developing a plan of action, he saw clearly that he needed to bring in outside resources. He invited the top universities in the San Francisco Bay Area to make a proposal to partner with Sun Microsystems to create a unique, custom designed learning experience. The University of Santa Cruz Extension best met his criteria for this challenging invitation only course. In record time his team developed an eight subject course that lasted one and a half months, and was dubbed the "Mini MBA Program." The 20 managers became full time students for that entire period of time, an unheard of precedent in Silicon Valley. David oversaw the implementation of six programs. These often included managers from around the world. The Mini MBA Program was so successful that the Vice President of IR personally presented the diplomas at every graduation dinner. The program had positive effects on the Sun bottom line and project implementation.

David received companywide recognition, for leading the creation of this exceptional program and received an Information Resources Champion, Academy Award for his work.

