

# Coordinator as Educator: **Breaking the Barriers**

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# Why I bother

- Surgery is a team sport
  - Integral team-player
  - Believe in something bigger than...
  - Take credit for our “products”
  - Pride of ownership
- How I spend my time is important to me
- My professional contribution to the world

*Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself*  
- John Dewey



# Your Program is a Temple

- **YOU...**
  - Make it what it is
  - Keep it alive
  - Make sure it's accredited
  - Feed it well
  - Keep it clean
  - Dress it up
  - Devote yourself to it
  - Invest your heart and soul in it
  - Give it your time



# Coordinator as Educator

- Coordinator: Regulates diverse elements into an integrated and *harmonious* operation.
- Facilitator: Makes easier the progress or improvement of something.
- Educator: Leads activities that impart knowledge or skill.
  - Not necessarily medical/surgical content



# Everyday Opportunities to Promote your Inner Educator

- “Surgery Education Office”
- Build a surgical library
- Educational bulletin boards
- Web-based educational pages
- Shadow residents & students
  - OR
  - Clinic
  - Wards
- TAGME certification
- Participate in the educational events that you plan
- Local and national activities



# Everyday Opportunities...con't

- Conduct an Educational Retreat
- Offer to participate in educational research
- Network!
- Collaborate and share educational resources
- Start an Executive Education Committee
- Talk about increasing “educational value”
- Bring ideas back
- \_\_\_\_\_



# Define the Barriers

- Time
- Resources
  - Financial
  - Educational
  - Human
- Role Confusion
- Credibility
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



# Group Work

- Get in groups
- Discuss ways to engage as an educator
- Choose 3 to implement
- Narrow your list to one and outline the plan
- Share with the group
- Review potential barriers
- Revise the plan (?)
- Hold onto your worksheets





# Suggestions for Breaking Barriers

- **Time**
- Resources
  - Financial
  - Educational
  - Human
- Role Confusion
- Credibility



## **Time savers....**

- Student Assistant
  - Federal Work Study program
- Link with other educational programs
  - “Education Intern”
- Use electronics and technology
  - Database to manage resident information
  - Educational web pages
- Delegate
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



# Suggestions for Breaking Barriers

- Time
- **Resources**
  - **Financial**
  - **Educational**
  - **Human**
- Role Confusion
- Credibility



## **Resource Builders....**

- Shadowing Program
  - Charge a fee
- Charge for completing verifications
  - \$10 - \$25 per verification
- Think outside the box
  - Meat processing plant
  - Collaborate with other programs
- Industry support
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



# Suggestions for Breaking Barriers

- Time
- Resources
  - Financial
  - Educational
  - Human
- **Role Confusion**
- Credibility



## **What Hat to Wear?**

- Use your knowledge and experience
  - Nobody knows the program better than you do
- Express your interest in resident education
- Suggest educational improvements
- Actively implement the change
- Start an Executive Education Committee
- Participate in educational activities
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



# Suggestions for Breaking Barriers

- Time
- Resources
  - Financial
  - Educational
  - Human
- Role Confusion
- **Credibility**



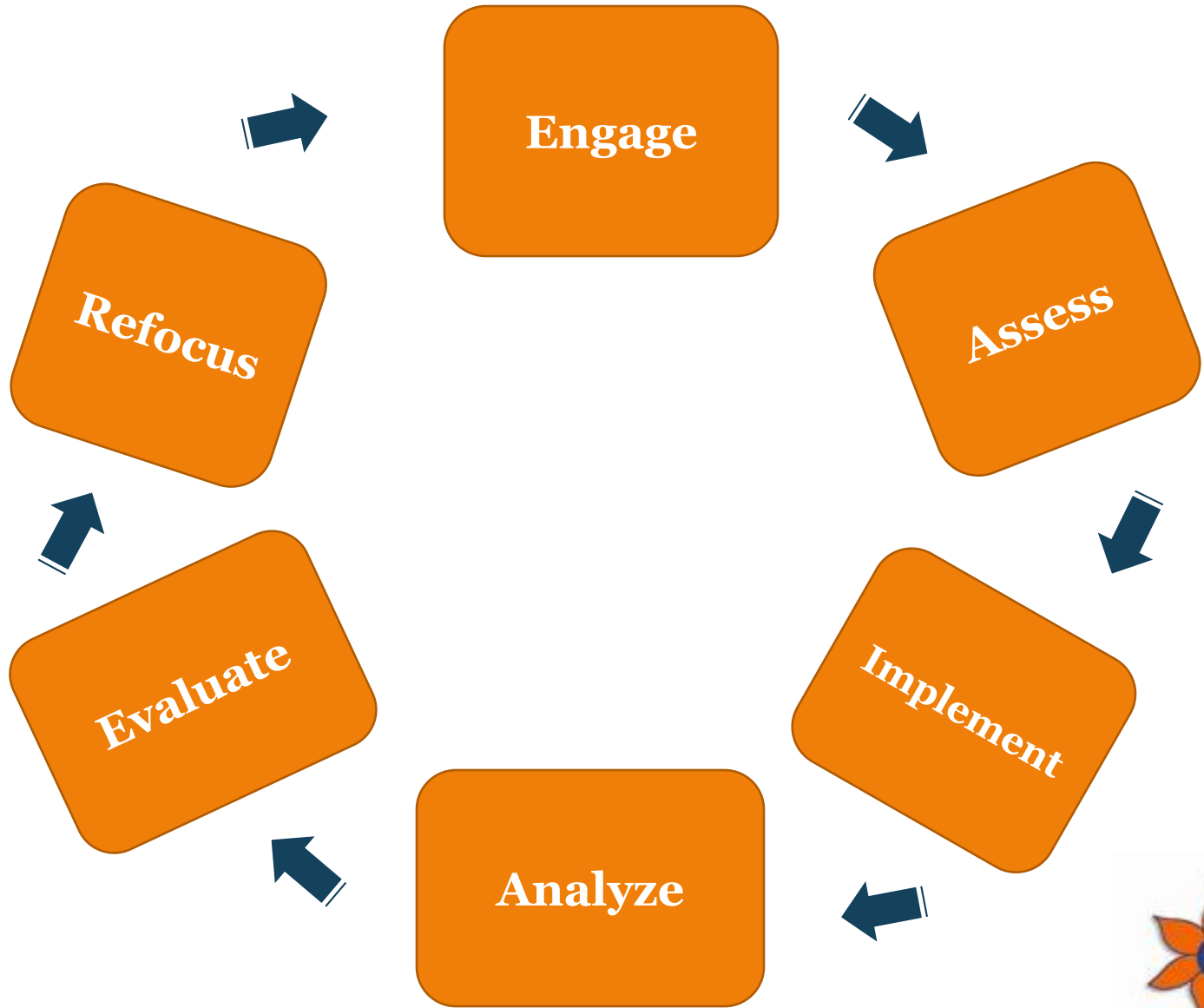
# Credentials Count

- Experience
  - Never underestimate the value of experience
- Check into a degree or certificate program
  - TAGME
  - Community School
  - College and University
- Make your own credentials – grow expertise!
  - Assessment
  - Learning objectives
  - Technology-driven applications





# *Breaking Barriers*



# Summary

- **Coordinators are also:**
  - Facilitators of education
  - Educators
- **As Facilitators and Educators we can:**
  - Improve the quality of the training program
  - Increase our value to the program and trainees
  - Gain professional satisfaction



# Summary

- Barriers can be broken
  - Be creative
  - Use technology
  - Generate revenue
  - Assert yourself
    - They take care of patients and you take care of the program
  - Be prepared to deliver when opportunity presents
  - Credentials count
    - TAGME
    - Take classes/pursue a degree or certificate
    - Attend meetings and bring back ideas
- Believe in yourself!





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