



Interactive Strategies for Improving Performance

The Society for Technical Communication Lone Star Community presents World's Foremost Authority on Interactive Learning

Dallas, Texas—**April 17, 2007**—Sivasailam "Thiagi" Thiagarajan, who is acknowledged as the world's foremost authority on interactive learning, will present a one-day, limited enrollment workshop "Interactive Strategies for Improving Performance" Friday, May. 9, at the Crowne Plaza North Dallas/Addison Hotel.

"Thiagi is an expert in the area of interactivity. So don't expect to sit in your seats!" Elisa Miller, Lone Star Community program chairman, said. "You'll be engaged and learn how to engage your learners while learning his important secrets of facilitation."

Early registration is recommended for this workshop since there are only 30 seats available. Registration includes a continental breakfast and lunch. You can register by visiting the LSC website at www.stc-dfw.org.

The workshop schedule is:

- 8:15 AM--Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 AM--Workshop Part 1
- 12:00 PM-- Lunch in McArthur's
- 12:45 PM--Workshop Part 2
- 5:15 PM--Wrap-up

If reservations are made by 5 p.m. on May 5, cost for the workshop is:

- Members: \$145
- Guests: \$175
- Students: \$85

Late reservations - May 6 or after (including day of workshop):

- Members: \$165
- Guests: \$200
- Students: \$100

"Thiagi's games are always ingenious, easy to conduct, and open to several learning points." -- Mel Silberman, author of *Active Training* and *101 Ways to Make Training More Active*

The morning session, *Designing Interactive Strategies*, focuses on improving training by encouraging participant interaction with each other, with the content, and with the instructor. In this workshop, Thiagi reveals five secrets of effective interactive training that is faster, cheaper, and better. Attendees will begin by rapidly exploring 60 different training strategies. Later, they will master additional details of several strategies:

- Structured sharing that helps practitioners exchange their expertise with each other
- Interactive lectures that enable instructors to retain control of the session while participants interact with each other
- Text games that make dull, dry handouts come alive
- Simulation games that use inexpensive materials and methods to reflect workplace realities
- Jolts that last for a few minutes and provide powerful insights and concepts

With Thiagi's framegame approach, attendees will learn how to load existing templates to create their own games in a matter of minutes. They will also learn how to avoid irrelevant fluff and fun, and immerse their participants in engaging activities.

"There are two types of training-game designers: there is Thiagi and there is the rest of us." -- Andy Kimball, President, Qube Learning, LLC

The afternoon session, Conducting Training Games and Activities, is designed to relieve instructors concerns about losing control, wasting time, and being attacked by participants so they can focus on the excitement of using training games and activities. Based on 20 years of field experience and research, Thiagi shares with attendees three important secrets of effective training facilitation:

1. Identify seven critical dimensions of activities-based training (including pace, intensity, competition, and playfulness). Learn how to select, maintain, and balance appropriate intensities of these dimensions.
2. Recognize participants from hell and their disruptive behavior patterns. Learn strategies for discouraging such patterns and specific tactics for handling each pattern.
3. Identify the importance of the debriefing process for linking the training game or activity to the workplace reality. Learn a powerful six-phase model for maximizing learning from experience.

"Quite simply, Thiagi is the most prolific and creative designer of games and simulations in the world." -- Glenn Parker, author of Cross-Functional Teams and Team Players and Teamwork

Thiagi is currently Resident Mad Scientist (aka Director of Research and Development) at the Thiagi Group, an organization that helps people accomplish more through interactive strategies for improving performance. Internationally recognized as an expert in human performance technology, Thiagi has lived in three different countries and has consulted in 21 others. Earlier in his life, Thiagi was a high-school teacher of physics, a street corner magician, a newspaper reporter, researcher, editor of a professional journal, keynote speaker, college professor, USAID project director in Africa, a game designer, and writer.

He was elected president of the International Society for Performance Improvement (ISPI) twice - 27 years apart (in 1979 and 2006). He has also been the five-time president of the North American Simulation and Gaming Association (NASAGA).

About STC and the Lone Star Community

The Society for Technical Communication (STC) is an individual membership organization dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of technical communication. It is the largest organization of its type in the world. Its 18,000 members include technical writers and editors, content developers, documentation specialists, technical illustrators, instructional designers, academics, information architects, usability and human factors professionals, visual designers, Web designers and developers, and translators—anyone whose work makes technical information available to those who need it.

The Lone Star Community (LSC), one of the larger STC communities in the U.S., received the Award of Distinction in the international STC Community Achievement competition for 2006-2007. The Lone Star Community received the Distinguished Community Achievement Award in 2007, 2006, 2004, and 2003. Drawing over 275 members from all over the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the LSC promotes professional growth through meetings, workshops, seminars, conferences, mentoring, and networking. For more information about the STC Lone Star Community, visit their website at www.stc-dfw.org.

For more information

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