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### The Responsibility Response

When asked about responsibility, the success-conscious instructor, administrator, or staff answers without doubt, equivocation, or hesitation, "I am!" Success may breed success, but responsibility is the fertile ground from which first success grows.

The mediocre, on the other hand, are often quick to pass off responsibility to another person, entity, agency, government, or even deity. The starting point of a life journey toward success, meaning, fulfillment, and significant contribution is to unequivocally accept full responsibility for what happens, especially for the growth of one's success attitudes, beliefs, and values.

It's not good enough to accept responsibility once and then forget it in the heat of coping with everyday problems, challenges, and criticisms. Taking responsibility should become an everyday, every-situation habit.

When applying the Responsibility Response to teaching, it's clear, in my experience, that learning improves when there is a positive instructor-student partnership. Productive learning partnerships are born when both parties agree to take responsibility for creating the conditions for optimum learning. Getting students to see the benefit and necessity for taking responsibility for learning is sometimes a challenging instructor leadership task. Leaders create pictures of a better future. The more compelling the picture is, the easier it is to generate student buy-in and commitment.

## TFS e-Mentor Success Insights

I suggest that for maximum effectiveness, instructors take the lead and define their roles, outcomes, and responsibilities in writing, and then, challenge their students to define their roles, and choose their preferred learning outcomes.

When a teaching-learning partnership is created and defined, and the Responsibility Response is active, there is a much higher likelihood of reaching successful course conclusions for all involved. Working to initiate the Responsibility Response in oneself and one's students is a fundamental teaching for success leadership task in a nutshell.

*~John H, (Jack) Shrawder, Exec. Director  
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