

# Intro to Working with Competencies

Applying the Korn Ferry Leadership Architect



#### **Objectives**

- Associate NWEA Values with competencies
- Use the FYI book to Identify skilled, talented, unskilled, and overused for each competency
- Coach individuals using competencies
- Assign competencies to job roles and job descriptions
- Describe how competencies are used in the hiring/promotion process



#### **Engagement Survey**

- + 60% My manager communicates well with me, giving me clear feedback on my work
  - 40% don't
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- + 53% I understand how my performance is evaluated
  - 47% don't



# The Basics





#### Competencies drive the organization's purpose



#### Individual performance

How individuals perform against objectives and demonstrate competencies



## What Is A Competency

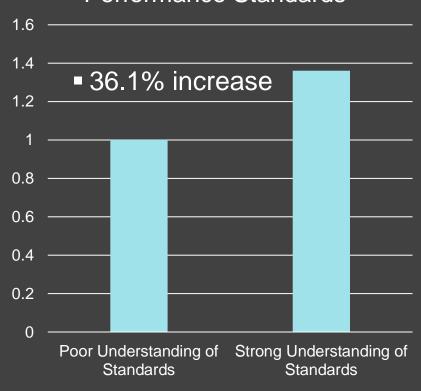
Observable and measurable skills and behaviors that contribute to workplace effectiveness and career success.



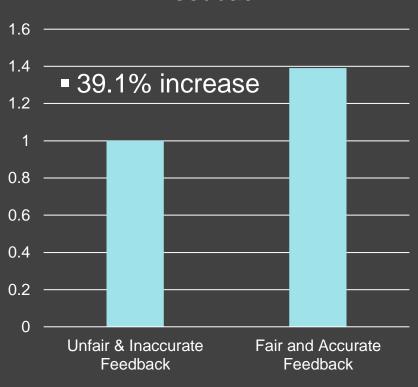


## The Case for a Competency Model

Impact of Employee
Understanding of
Performance Standards



Impact of Fairness and Accuracy on Informal Feedback





**Competencies in Context** 

Skills and behaviors required for success that can be observed.

#### For Example:

Decision quality, strategic mindset, global perspective, and business insight

Inclinations, aptitudes and natural tendencies a person leans toward, including personality traits and intellectual capacity.

#### For Example:

Assertiveness, risk taking, confidence, and aptitude for logic and reasoning.

Competencies

Experiences

Assignments or roles that prepare a person for future roles.

#### For Example:

Functional experiences, international assignments, turnarounds, and fix-its.

**Traits** 

Drivers

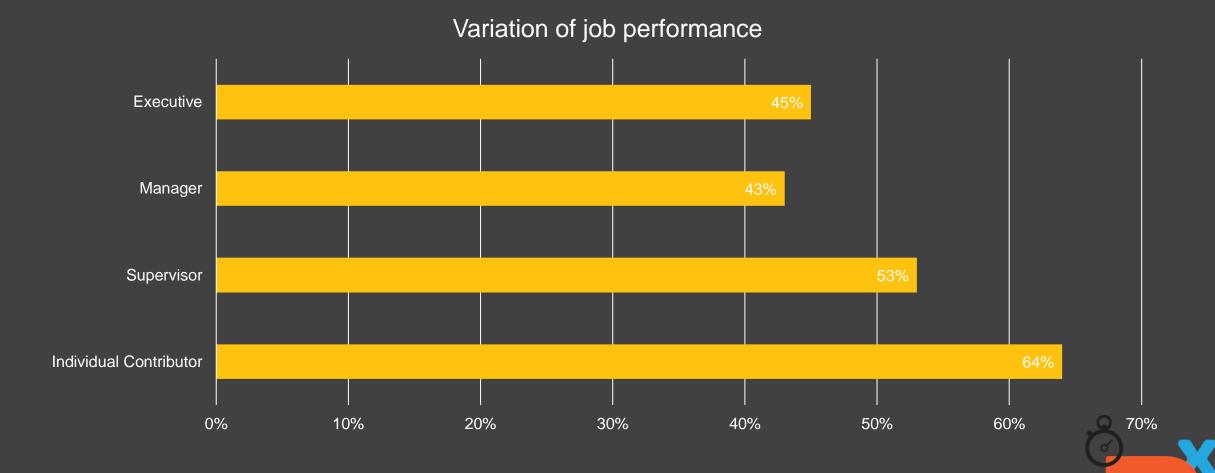
Values and interest that influence a person's career path, motivation and engagement.

#### For Example:

Power, status, autonomy, and challenge



## Competency proficiency matters a lot



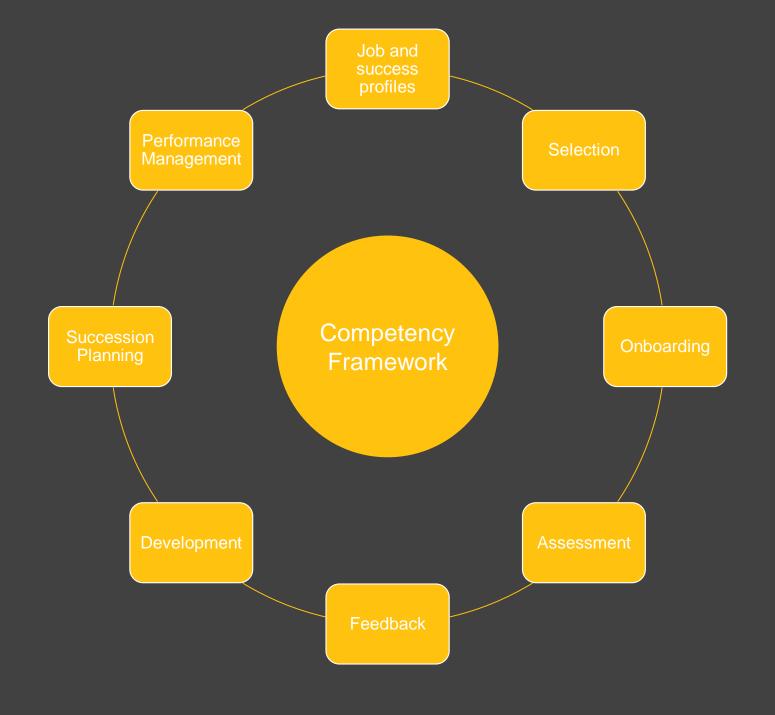


## **Korn Ferry Leadership Architect**

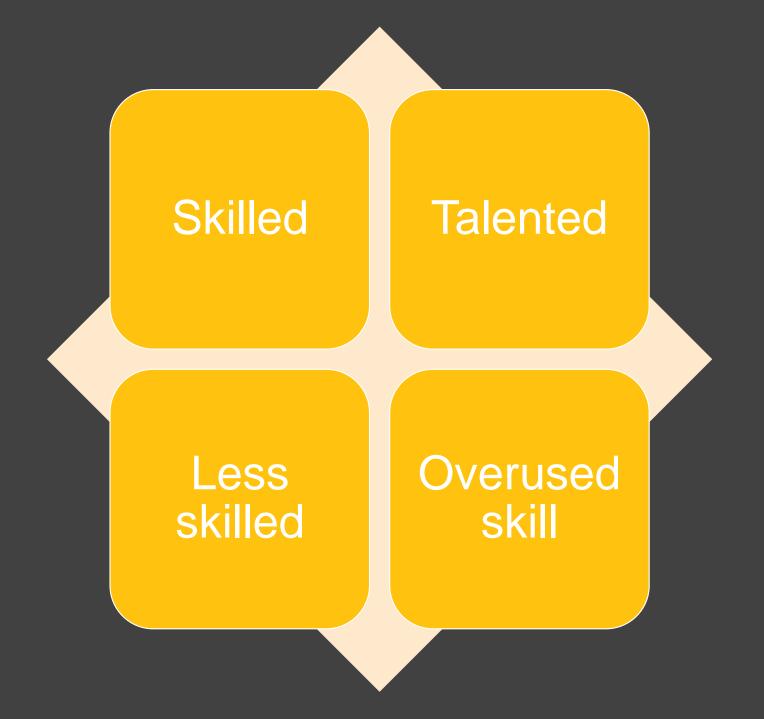
4 Factors 12 Clusters Competencies













# Vision & Values







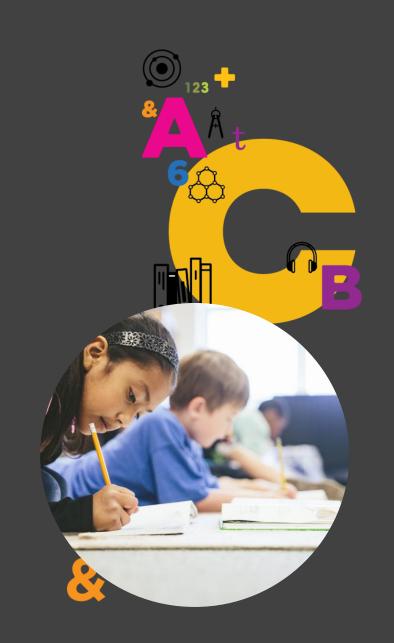
NWEA positively transforms education to accelerate growth and mastery for each student.





#### **NWEA Values**

- + Honesty and Integrity
- Care and Respect for All Stakeholders
- Collaboration and Accountability
- + Courage
- + Success
- + Joy





#### **Activity: Our Values**

- Using our 6 values, assign competencies to each one
- Based on your observations within NWEA, think about the supply of skilled/talented individuals for each competency you have assigned. Put the competencies in order from lowest supply to highest supply
  - For the purposes of this exercise, overuse is the same as unskilled



# Discussion: Competencies and our values

- Were you surprised by anything?
- What value do we have the greatest supply of talent in? What about the least?
- How do you think a competency model can help?





# Competencies and Job Roles





## Job Hierarchy

Senior Executive

Business unit leader

Mid-level leader

First level leader/supervisor

Mid-Senior level individual contributor

Entry level individual contributor



#### **General Guidelines**

- Lower positions generally have fewer competencies assigned to them
- Not all competencies have the same level of difficulty to develop
- Not all competencies have the same supply
- There are many ways to approach a competency model





# **Partner Accounts** Price of Company Wide Admission Differentiators



#### **Account Executive**

- Able to successfully move deals through the sales cycle, negotiate and close deals
- Proven track record of selling success and ability to exceed personal and team goals
- Skilled in analyzing and translating complex partner requirements into NWEA business offering, resulting in sound business and relationship decisions
- (Major, National) Assist in defining and evaluating deliverables, parameters and language for partnership and agreements and contracts
- + Aptitude to inspire, unify and lead cross-organizational teams
- Consistently apply proven sales methodology (i.e. Miller Heiman, Strategic Selling)



#### **Account Executive**

- + Excellent project management and organizational skills
- Exhibit excellent written and verbal communication skills, including high caliber presentation skills
- Demonstrate commitment to the NWEA mission and culture
- Ability to successfully manage sales relationships, pipeline and opportunities in CRM system (Salesforce preferred)
- Exhibit knowledge of education market, school and business operations and functions with ability to have impactful conversations with senior school and district contacts and administrators
- Effectively work with Partner Accounts team and NWEA organization with demonstrated ability to work effectively with a wide range of individuals and independently



#### **Discussion**

- Were there any surprises?
- Do the competencies reflect the position?
- What value do you see in doing this exercise with other positions?





#### **KFLA Norms and Performance Correlations**







# Activity: Competency Assignment for Account Executive

- + Start with the top third for Mid-senior level individual contributor
- Use the FYI book to correlate desired behavior
- Sort cards help
- Limit to 7 (price of admission)
- + 3 differentiators (nice to have)



## **Discussion: Competency Assignment**

- What was most challenging?
- What was the least challenging?
- How do these competencies compare to the ones from the job description?





# Coaching & Development



#### **Feedback**

- + Critical to improving performance
- We don't get/give enough feedback
- Individuals look for feedback that is balanced
- Feedback can be ineffective depending on how it is delivered





# The Feedback Sand NEGATIVE F. BACK



#### Why it doesn't work

- Does little to increase effectiveness
- "Waiting for the other shoe to drop syndrome"
- Obscures the real meaning
- Diminishes the worth of positive feedback
- Inaccurate self-assessments
- + Positives tend to stay the same resulting in reuse





Your job, as leaders, is not to make people feel better, but help them reach their potential





#### **Using Competencies**

- Objective and measurable
- + Removes judgement
- Minimizes ambiguity
- Coaching is about the behavior/competency, not the person
- Consistent language



#### Collaborates

#### Skilled

- Works cooperatively with others across the organization to achieve shared objectives.
- Represents own interests while being fair to others and their area
- Partners with others to get work done
- Credits others for their contributions and accomplishments
- Gains trust and support of others

#### **Talented**

- Models collaboration across the organization
- Facilitates an open dialogue with a wide variety of contributors and stakeholders
- Balances own interests with others'
- Promotes high visibility of shared contributions to goals.



#### Collaborates

#### Less Skilled

- Overlooks opportunities to work collaboratively with others
- Values own interests above others'
- Shuts down lines of communication across groups
- Prefers to work alone and be accountable for individual contributions

#### **Overused Skill**

- Is overly consensus-driven and struggles to make decisions in a timely manner
- Risks being perceived as lacking courage an failing to stand up for own beliefs
- May be too accommodating
- May prioritize collaboration at the expense of make tough decisions



#### **Discussion: Collaborates**

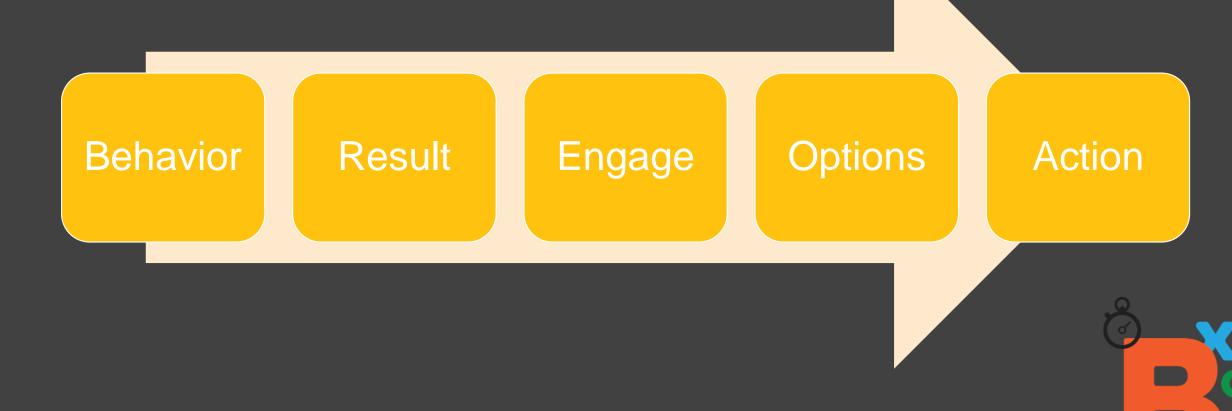
- + Collaborates: #6 page 63
- + Introduction
- + Possible causes of lower skill
- + Brain booster





# **Coaching Method**

nwea



## **Activity: Competency Coaching**

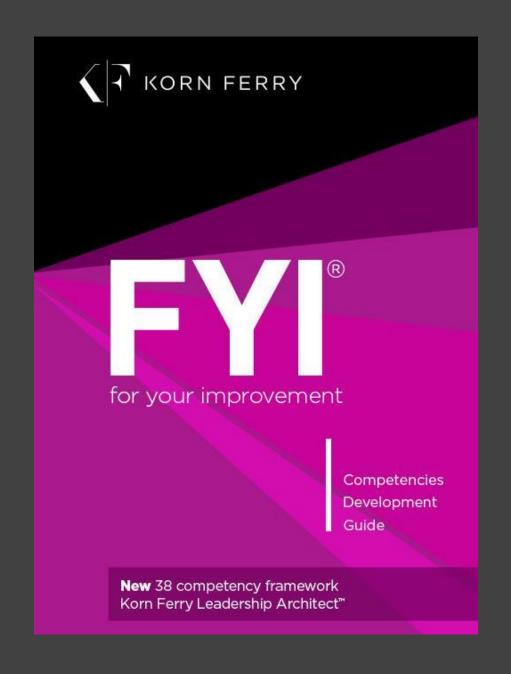
- What behavior did you identify?
  - Where does this fall in the FYI Book?
- What was the result?
- How might you engage with Jack?
- What are some options for development?
- Create an action plan.
  - SMART Goals
- Repeat in groups for Scenario 2





## Development

- + Career path
- Differentiators
- Objective Measures
- + Common Language





# **Talent Selection**





#### **Discussion: Talent Selection**

- + How might you use competencies in the selection process?
- How might you use competencies in career pathing?
- + How might you use competencies in succession planning?
- What does it look like now?





#### **Talent Selection Process**

Job Description

Competencies

Screen for key words

Behavioral Interview Look for Differentiators





#### **Activity: Talent Selection Process**

- + How do you see us using competencies in our selection process?
- Collaboration is a value of the organization, what are some behavioral interview questions we can ask to screen for that competency
- Using the competencies you defined for the Account executive, what are some behavioral interview questions we can ask during an account executive interview?





# Wrap up





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# Thank You