

Agnes Mxolisi - Building Workplace Community Transcript

Interviewer: Today on our show we are interviewing Agnes Mxolisi who has agreed to talk to us about leadership and communication and building community in the workplace. So thank you very much, Agnes for joining us today.

Agnes: Thank you for having me.

Interviewer: So you can tell me a little bit about how you build community for your staff at work?

Agnes: I try to create community for all the staff. I generally do talk to them quite a bit. I can't talk to all the staff, but I try. I have a large staff. I every so often drop by somebody's desk, and see how they're doing, what's happening in their life. I do try to sort of make personal connections with them. You know some people are sports people, some have children, some people like to volunteer, and some people like to travel. So I hope to build connections with them by understanding things that are important to them by learning their values. Yesterday, in my environment (I've been in this organization for a year) I brought chocolates. Went around to all the staff and said, "Thank you very much for the great year!" You know try to put social events into place if you happen to know somebody's birthday; you make a point of it. And when it comes to work, then it's a lot easier for me to present the work

and say what's the value in it—like why we are doing it. If you don't know why you're doing it, then you say it's just another job.