

Career Rx

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Preparing to Get What You Wish For

The expression "Be careful what you wish for, it may come true." has had many interpretations over the years. From a career standpoint, I interpret this as you may wish for something, but it is up to you to strive for it. Set yourself up to succeed by aligning all of the necessary pieces together in preparation. Pieces include education and training, contacts, experiences, and an understanding of what it takes to reach the goal – ultimately the motivation and drive!

Sometimes we wish for things that when we receive them, we are not ready for it. We may not handle this new gift or success well as we do not know what is expected of us or the new role. Be prepared to receive it and be ready to carry out the new role is a multi step process. When you accept a promotion or new position, there is typically some knowledge you bring to the position and then there is the stretch where you will need to learn and understanding how to best add value. This takes time and sometimes input from colleagues and mentors.

When you live in the moment, typically you do not have a plan to strategize for. There are times when living in the moment works at certain stages of life. You need to know where you are, what you need now and in the future. When you see the future (timeframe is open - can be 1 year out or 5, 10 or 20 years out), you can create a plan for yourself. When we are graduating from school, we usually talk of where we see ourselves and speak of goals and dreams. These conversations should never end, regardless of the age or stage of life you are in.

As many unemployed are college graduates and mid career level professionals, there is need to think creatively about career opportunities. Is it the traditional company career path or is it an entrepreneurial path? Is it putting together a series of consulting and part time engagements to create a portfolio career job? Is it mentoring someone else to make a difference in both of your lives?

As this holiday season is upon us, reflect on what you know and what you have. Think about what you wish for and see if your career path you have set is aligning you for future engagements. Consider gathering additional information through networking, exposure through volunteer opportunities, and by learning more within that sphere of interest.

Enjoy the holidays, open dialogue with family and friends, ask them what they see as the trends going into 2011, think through what you hear and think outside the box! Wishing you all a Happy Holiday and a Healthy New Year!

Lisa Chenofsky Singer is the Managing Director of Chenofsky Singer and Associates LLC www.ChenofskySinger.com, providing Executive and Career Coaching and Human Resources Consulting.

Lisa's extensive human resources and coaching experience with Fortune 500 companies, small enterprises, medium-sized firms, and non-profit organizations gives her the unique ability to bring together wide-ranging perspectives on career transitions, executive and leadership development. She has consulted with a wide variety of sectors — consumer goods, financial services, healthcare, media and entertainment, pharmaceutical and life sciences, publishing, professional services, technology, and non-profit. Lisa has a passion for motivational speaking, conducts career forums, and provides executive and career coaching.

Lisa's greatest strength is that she enables individuals and organizations to see themselves in new ways, freeing them to achieve their goals. Lisa can be reached at Lisa@ChenofskySinger.com.