

Employment Brief- Take Charge Of Your Career by Answering These Questions

Are you on a career fast track? If you don't feel you are, there is a good chance that you haven't thought much about career management. Career management is similar to spending time on the range and practice facilities. From the best players to the worst players, all would benefit from a little more time spent practicing. Typically, the more you practice your game, the better results you see when you go to the golf course. Career management utilizes the same proactive approach as working on your game prior to playing. There is no time like the present to start investing in you and your career aspirations. If you commit to a lifetime of learning and taking charge of your career, you will put yourself ahead of the competition. The current state of the golf industry has seen a reduction of those good to great professional positions and if you are not setting yourself up to be ahead of your competition then you will be left behind. Here are some easy ways to start working on your career management.

- **How Do You Measure Up?**- Assess your current abilities to determine your level of expertise. Check out current job openings and job descriptions similar to what you would be interested in as a your next career move and see what employers are looking for in terms of skills and education. If you find yourself failing to meet the criteria that employers are looking for, you can begin to make the necessary changes to gain the skills and education that you see needed to make that next move.
- **Do You Have A Positive Self- Image?**- If you are confident, comfortable, and open within interactions with others that is fantastic. If not, you can work on building to all of those things by practicing and role-playing with either a friend or a career coach. This will allow you gain a clearer understanding of your strengths, allow you to tackle fears you may have, and have a better opportunity to reach your goals by becoming a more confident individual all around.
- **How Well Do You Interact With Your Peers?**- Do you include your team when working toward the objectives you have laid out? Do you show an interest in meeting team driven objectives? If you answered yes to these, then you are the right track. You have to be willing to go above and beyond the scope of your job description, to take on additional challenges with the others within your team to produce a successful operation. If you decide that you will only do what is in your job description and don't want to assist others with items for the overall good, you will want to look into working on your team building skills. An example of this is:
 - If you are in a Head Professional role, you have to be the model of team work. On the contrary if you are currently an Assistant Professional, you will need to exemplify that you are a team player and can build a winning team. En route to your next career path, you will likely take on the team building responsibility.
- **Are You Focused On Lifelong Learning?**- Is your continuing education aligning with your life and work objectives? What knowledge and skills will you need to reach your future goals? How are you staying current with new technologies and trends that are emerging? Whether you are looking to advance your career to the next level or enhance your current position, taking advantage of continuing education is essential. All of the additional learning opportunities should align with your key interest and provide a sense of purpose. There are a multitude of opportunities to enhance you as a professional. This is a great time to look into the Certified Professional Program, the education presentations within your section or even neighboring sections, and when you head to the Merchandise Show next year, check out the education seminars. If you are not taking advantage of any furthering education opportunities you will be passed by a professional who has taken the initiative to further their knowledge and skill set.
- **Have You Developed A Comprehensive Network Of Associates?**- Networks consist of friends and family members, but it is not just a list of friends on Facebook and Twitter. Your contact list needs to be expanded to ensure you have included individuals from within our industry. Ensure that you are an active member within and out of the section. Once you have a network established, you will want to keep in contact with them. Talk to them about best practices and utilize them to hear about potential job openings or to assist you with a reference that could lead to you landing your dream position. Our industry is a "small" industry and a very accessible one to create a strong and productive network group that will only assist you as you move forward in your career.
- **Are You Accountable For Your Career?**- If you are, then you have the education, social skills, technical expertise, and a comprehensive list of contacts within your professional network. This all adds up to you

getting your resume ready along with a solid list of references and you're ready to go out and find that dream position.

If you are managing your career and heading in the direction you desire, excellent. If not, now is the time to take control of your career and steer it in the direction of your dream job. If you need any assistance, please reach out to me and set up a time to discuss what exactly you are working toward and we will work together to compile a game plan to get you there.

Source material from Patricia Erikson on careerealism.com

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