

CAREER PLANNING ... and then Life Happens!

By Carol Hallyn

How many times has a goal been set, a plan been made for career development and then the unforeseen occurs only to alter everything? Most likely this kind of scenario has played out more than once along the way for most of us. Hopefully, after a while, experience teaches us to be flexible and flow with whatever comes up in the moment while keeping an eye on the ball for true desired outcomes.

From years of working with executives addressing professional development that includes the broad scope of defining a purpose statement and a vision statement for accomplishment, to the fine details of specific goals within defined timeframes, it has become clear to me that blocks to progress always seem to present themselves. The unexpected needs to be expected. Life does happen as unanticipated events produce professional obstacles and personal challenges that deter the reality of the envisioned career to be manifested. For these reasons Career Charting™ was created.

Career Charting™

Career Charting is an educational tool designed to strengthen the possibilities for fulfilling career goals as unforeseen life experiences unfold. This is accomplished by taking a closer look at how our professional endeavors are affected by our personal events, and visa-versa. Since we are one person comprised of both our professional and personal self, it's useful to view the whole of our picture simultaneously as we move forward into making new choices.

The Career Charting tool offers a way in which to view the synthesis of professional accomplishments in light of personal activities. This objective viewpoint first looks at the past for increased awareness of our present situation. In turn, the broader scope of our present options provides for greater insights into future possibilities. The idea is to avoid getting stuck as we foster our career development.

Three Basic Steps

The three-step process of reflecting into the past, bringing more awareness to the present, and receiving insights for the future, underscores our focus for exploring and cultivating career advancements. Once established in the practice of Career Charting, we're able to glean possibilities of change prior to experiencing them. This, in turn, allows for increased options for action steps to take advantage of synchronicities as they present themselves.

When Life Happens

Experience has shown that the best way to work with Career Charting when the unexpected challenges of life do show up is to maintain the consistency of recognizing our life patterns from past events as they are playing out in the moment. From being aware of as much as we can in the present we are able to sense more of future possibilities before they actually manifest. Within this range of consciousness we can then start to explore what we are instinctively guided toward and discover what holds

validity for us to further pursue. From this quality of exploration and discovery we then begin to learn what is most appropriate for development of next steps. All of this translates into having clarity and confidence to trust our inner judgment for taking actions toward continued success because we have a clear picture of what brought us to the moment through our individual career chart. This on-going process has the capacity to keep us moving beyond our anticipated vision. The name of the game is to *think BIG*.

Conclusion

With greater consciousness to the clues of what is actually going on within our personal and professional environments, our sense of clarity can be heightened for creating and establishing successful career planning. Life happens and readiness needs to be at hand. Career Charting offers that quality of opportunity in support of knowledgeable choices for realistic and practical life achievement decisions. ✱

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