The Power in Knowing What You Want

Do you know what you want from life? Do you have a plan for your future? Have you thought about your short-term objectives and long-range goals? Would you rather choose the type of life you want to live or merely settle for a job that’s convenient or available? Are you just drifting through life hoping that nothing bad happens?

Many people fail to have a fulfilling life because they haven’t acted on their passions, or they never developed their passions. This can happen when people don’t realize what their talents really are, or don’t reflect on the purpose of their life, or because they have become discouraged.

A tragedy for millions of people is that they don’t ever decide what they really want. If you don’t decide what you want, then you end up settling for what life gives you. Many believe that life will provide for us whatever it is that we demand. Many believe that life will provide for us whatever it is that we demand. "Just because we value something does not necessarily mean it will create quality-of-life results. When what we value is in opposition to the natural laws that govern peace of mind and quality of life, we base our lives on illusion and set ourselves up for failure. We cannot be a law unto ourselves.” (Steven Covey)

It’s easy to get discouraged, especially in tough economic times. Dwelling on the apparent lack of opportunities can become a habit for many people, causing them to forget that life also affords all kinds of opportunities to make their dreams come true.

Highly successful people refuse to allow themselves to become discouraged. They learn to reframe the inevitable ‘failures’ that happen to everyone who tries something into ‘lessons learned that don’t need to be repeated’. There are several ways that people can learn the skills necessary to be successful in life.

One of the main reasons that people are unclear about their goals is because they don’t have enough information about themselves and/or the world of work. Gathering that information may be a daunting task, especially if you don’t know how to begin. If you would like to become more clear about what you want, or want more information about how to actualize your potential, take a College Orientation class or leadership training seminar. You can also visit MACC’s Career and Placement Services for free career counseling or attend a free Career Focus seminar at a campus near you this August. (See page four for the dates and times.)

Career development, rather than a one-shot deal, is more like breathing. You may not be aware that it’s happening until you stop to observe it. The amazing thing is that the act of observation inevitably changes the situation, invariably for the better. For example, as you become aware that you are breathing, your breathing changes. It slows down and you become more relaxed. It is my belief that the self is an endless realm for exploration, and the most interesting and challenging basis for study that people will ever have. Your “self” is really all that you have and it is a great gift. Dive deep, and discover lifelong potential and a myriad of opportunities to develop. Patricia Twaddle, M.Ed.
In a ceremony held on April 27, 20 MACC students in the New Traditions Scholarship program received a variety of private, institutional and state awards totaling $3,956.00. Five Institutional Scholarships were allocated this semester. These renewable scholarships provide $300 each semester for up to four semesters. Private scholarships totaling $1,225 from seven local business and community organizations were awarded to nine students. Displaced Homemaker Fee Waivers totaling $1,031 were awarded to three students. Breaking Traditions Awards totaling $200 were presented to three students.
**Ruth Lawrence**

A profile written by Jaime Morgans, MACC Director of Institutional Development, Marketing, and Public Relations

Ruth Lawrence is 96, and she’s quick to let you know it. No mumbling or blushing about her age for this quick-witted lady who still works as a seamstress out of her home. She’s probably mended or altered an article of clothing for half of Moberly’s population.

One population she’s paid particular attention to over the years is the New Traditions scholarship program participants at Moberly Area Community College. Lawrence was a pioneer in developing this program, and MACC is grateful for her consistent support for over 30 years.

Lawrence and her husband, Leon, met and married in very different times. She was hardly 18 and he was 21 when they tied the knot in 1930. He had a Model A Ford and would drive to visit her in Howard County. The roads were dirt or mud, depending on the weather, and it was quite a trek for the Model A in those days.

So, he finally said, “Ruth, this has got to stop. Just marry me and move to Moberly.” And she did.

Leon died in January 2001 after over 70 years of marriage. They both worked at the Brown Shoe Company. She worked there for 15 years and he for 30. She loved her work there but left when her daughter was two years old.

“We didn’t make much money, but then again, nobody did,” remembered Lawrence.

After leaving Brown, Lawrence started her own sewing business out of her home. Her mother had taught her to sew, and it turned out to be a useful trade. She made all of her family’s clothes, including wedding dresses.

Through her sewing business, Lawrence became active in the Business and Professional Women’s (BPW) organization. In 1979, she began supporting “Project Re-Entry” which was the original name of the New Traditions program at MACC. She’s been involved since the very beginning, because BPW was one of the primary supporters at its inception. They have given a scholarship every semester since 1979. The scholarship is solely supported by donations from members of the organization.

The New Traditions program is part of a state-wide network of resource centers that assist vocational educators and students who are members of special populations in the pursuit of non-traditional, high tech, high demand careers.

New Traditions Centers are located in career and technical high schools and community colleges throughout Missouri. The primary purpose of these centers is to help students prepare for the workforce by helping them identify job interests and providing access to training for marketable skills.

Financial assistance, information and referral services, and a range of support services are offered to members of special populations. These populations include: people preparing for careers that are not traditional for their gender, single parents, displaced homemakers, people from economically disadvantaged families, people with disabilities, and people with other barriers to educational achievement, including English proficiency. The program supplies displaced homemaker fee waivers, which cover up to 100% of unmet tuition, fees and books, Institutional Scholarships, and Private Scholarships.

Visionaries like Ruth Lawrence saw the need for special populations to have the opportunity to earn a college degree. MACC honors her commitment and contribution to the New Traditions program and the hundreds of college graduates she has encouraged for the last 30 years.
Parting Thoughts...

What Love Means to a 4 - 8 Year Old
Anonymous email

❤️ “When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn’t bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That’s love.”
Rebecca, age 8

❤️ “Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.”
Chrissy, age 6

❤️ “Love is what makes you smile when you’re tired.”
Terri, age 4

❤️ “Love is when mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to makes sure it tastes OK.”
Danny, age 7

❤️ “When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.”
Billy, age 4

❤️ “Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken.”
Elaine, age 5

❤️ “Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt and he wears it every day.”
Noelle, age 7

❤️ “Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.”
Mary Ann, age 4

❤️ “When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.”
Karen, age 7

❤️ “You really shouldn’t say ‘I love you’ unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget.”
Jessica, age 8

UPCOMING EVENTS
FREE Career Focus Seminars:
Two-hour sessions to explore career interests, values, skills and personality traits and assist participants to develop career and educational plans. Assessments include the Myers-Briggs Type Inventory, Skills Inventory, College Majors Scorecard, and O*Net Career Interests Inventory. Other topics include goal setting and staying motivated, stress management, and dealing with change.
Locations are at the MACC campuses. Room numbers to be announced. Sessions will be held from 1 - 3 p.m.
- Mexico: Tuesday, August 4
- Hannibal: Monday, August 10
- Kirksville: Wednesday, August 12
- Columbia: Thursday, August 13
- Moberly: Friday, August 14
Please RSVP to Pat Twaddle (660) 263-4110 ext 232