



Develop a CEO Mindset and Make 2010 Your Best Career Year Ever!

By all accounts, 2010 is already shaping up to be a year of transformation and renewal. But if you don't change your mindset and become the CEO of your career, time and opportunity have a way of just slipping by. To help you make the most of every opportunity that comes your way this year, here are ten activities that you can do right now to make 2010 your best year ever.

Take inventory of your career. Yes, this involves reflection. But if you don't do it now, when will you? Take a critical look at both your assets and liabilities, then create a personal balance sheet or scorecard for yourself. What does your scorecard say about you?

Get clear on your values. You'd be surprised how many people aren't really clear about their values. Since these are the building blocks for making decisions, it's important that you be clear about what values are most important to you.

Write out your own personal mission and vision statement. Remember Jerry Maguire? After years of successfully navigating the ultra competitive world of sports management, Jerry McGuire (Oscar nominee Tom Cruise) experiences a crisis of conscience. He writes a mission statement, leaves his job, and after a myriad of bumps along the way, finds success on his own terms. I know. I had you at hello, right?

Create your own definition of success. You have the capacity to be successful in both your personal and professional life. The real question is, how successful do you want to be? Take time to write out your own definition of success. Your answer may surprise you.

Develop 3-5 career goals. I know, I know. That's all you hear about at work is goals. That's because there is magic in goals. Want to know the true power of goals? Watch the documentary, Touching the Void. This docudrama is an eye-opener when you realize the role that goals played in the survival of Joe Simpson when a mountaineering trek goes awry.

Hone your negotiation skills. There is no other skill that will help you be successful like negotiation skills. It's the only skill that will help you get not only what you need to be successful but what you want. For example, you may need a new office space (and anywhere will do, right?) but why shouldn't you get the one you really want in the corner with the fabulous views? I know you will be more productive with those views, right? Remember, somebody has to get it and it may as well be YOU!

Take a risk. We've all been in hunker down and hideout mode. Time to break out of the cocoon and actually do something different and maybe even just a teeny bit risky. It doesn't have to be crazy, like ski-boarding. Just something that pushes the limits on what you normally do like cross country skiing or something like it. (Note: the latter isn't really that risky except maybe if you fall down – which I have been known to do especially when trying to go up a big hill.)

Engage in continuous learning. You've got to fill the well with new ideas. So many people delude themselves by saying I'm too busy. Seriously, we're all busy. And, with so many options (newspapers, books, teleseminars, webinars, eCourses, as well as numerous in-person and traditional classroom

style training) there truly is no excuse any more. Trust me, spending time learning something new will make you not only a better employee but a better person too.

Schedule checkpoints to review your goals. Yes, you have to inspect what you expect. There are plenty of tools that can help make this easy. If you don't think you can do this yourself, find a goal buddy, enlist your spouse or hire a coach. At the end of the day, items you focus your attention on usually get done. So, in the words of Larry the Cable Guy let's "git-r-done." (Yes, that's how he spells it.)

Develop a strong network. With the business environment in chaos over the past two years, many individuals belatedly realized the importance of having a strong network. Those who were suddenly out of a job or whose livelihoods depended on referrals may have found the well had dried up because they failed to nurture their networks. I hope you will consider joining the WATT™ Network. Join now and receive my audio, Time Management for the Time Pressed and my eReport, Developing a CEO Mindset – FREE!

If tackling these 10 tasks feels overwhelming to you, then pick just two or three of them and start there. Any action is better than no action. Plus, energy begets energy. The more you accomplish the more you will likely want to accomplish. The bottom line is this. How your 2010 plays out is up to only one person: you. What are you willing to do to make 2010 your best career year ever?