

Introduction

I wrote this book to give you a road map to follow so you can spend your time wisely in pursuit of the work you were meant to do. It contains advice, tips, “snapshots” of the current and future marketplace, and many resources you can use to craft a career worthy of your interests, talents and passion. This book includes part of my own story of how I learned to create the work I love in a wide variety of settings in a career spanning 30+ years. Finally, I draw content from a career workshop that I designed and facilitate in my private coaching practice entitled, “Creating the Work You Love.” I have expanded that content into this e-book format so that you now can have a “seat” in the workshop without leaving home.

Changing careers was not something I knew a lot about in 1982 when I registered for a life-changing job search program offered by career coach Mike Kenney, a former Catholic priest. I defined the work that made me feel alive and engaged; I learned how to network and I revised my resume. I understood for the first time in my life that it was possible for my avocation to be my vocation – an exciting awareness that filled me with energy and optimism. When I entered Mike’s program I did not even know the job title for the training work I wanted to do, but I knew I was getting burned out as an alcohol and drug abuse counselor. I wanted to work at three things I enjoyed doing most: teaching, writing and helping adults reach their highest potential.

I absorbed the lessons of that career program like a woman ending a starvation diet and eating her first full meal! I had a lot of fun during the nine months of network interviews that it took for me to land not one, but *two*, job offers in my new field of corporate training. I accepted a training position at one of the largest health care organizations in the state, then known as Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Indiana, having launched my first successful career change, thanks to Mike.

Since then, I have made several career changes, and each time, I’ve acquired a deeper understanding of myself and of the power of setting our intention to create the work we love. My goal in writing this e-book is to encourage you to believe that you are the master of your career path – indeed, I believe you have an obligation to use the talents you have been given in this life to do the work you were born to do in your own unique way.

A purpose deep within you is already steadily taking shape. You may have begun to notice an increasing number of synchronicities that seem to indicate that you are supposed to be doing something different, something more meaningful, than you have been doing. You may have begun thinking of leaving your present occupation and moving into something new. What might that be? What is the purpose of the life you have been given? How can you make the

most of your time? Many thousands of people are asking the same questions of themselves and are now awakening to their true path, intuitively knowing that something more is being required of them. While they live with a persistent longing, they often wish that someone would tell them what to do. Used to taking their cues from external sources, they may seek advice from others, they may study the latest list of hot jobs in the new economy, or try to second guess what the next Big Thing might be so that they can align with it. It's easy to get lost in the process.

But eventually life demands that you take action and turn inward to begin the journey of soul searching on the road less traveled. You realize that not only can you make a difference in this world, but that is the real reason you were born. You begin to grow into your own individuality and power, to see that your role is to engage fully with life, to participate, to have fun, to develop in the artistic and spiritual medium of this world that is intended for your use and for your purpose. Thus, it is no accident that you are reading this book. You have taken a helpful step toward embracing your future destiny – congratulations! Now, let's go forward together.