

Skipping A, While Hoping for Z.

Guest Blog by Dr. Michael Provitera, Author of the Book "Mastering Self-Motivation."

Some people are oppressed as children, others are from the wrong zip code, and then there is me.

I was a college student in a medium size college in a borough of New York City. I met my first professor and my cousin Vic asked him if he was a doctor when one of our management classes ended, professor D. said "Yes!" He was a doctor of business administration, which was something that I did not know existed at the time. Right at that very moment, I wanted to become a doctor. Until then, I did not know that a person could be anything but a medical doctor. Naïve, I know, but what can you expect for an inner-city kid growing up with schoolyards and some small form of ponds that were destined to be destroyed to further develop the condominiums and homes in the neighborhood. Another thing happened on the way to Wall Street. While in class, the same professor D. told the class that at least fifty percent of you will work on Wall Street. That seed was planted and eventually grew.

After college, I worked my way up to an executive level on Wall Street. In that capacity, I earned my MBA and then my doctorate so that I can become a professor. Both degrees paid for by the corporations that I worked at, so I immediately applied what I learned in the classroom to the workplace and this helped me prosper.

Like my professor friend and now colleague, he motivated me and left me with the desire to motivate others. I love being able to be creative and the short bursts of leadership in the classroom and on the podium when training or delivering a keynote presentation. I really feel that I make an impact on people and that I am able to reach them deep down inside with my knowledge and skill of motivating people.

When you think about your career, remember what you loved as a child and then forget it. A child does not know the possibility of careers but they do know how to dream. They only know what they are exposed to from the people around them. Ergo, limited experience, limited exposure, limited dreams. Go with your passion and your authentic self. Discover what you were meant to be and attempt to blend that with what you want to be. Never give up, do not feel that it will take too much time. Just put in the necessary time needed to reach your dream job. Run with the right people. Sure, professor D. influenced me a great deal but I had to continue to find mentors and people that I could learn from. He was the seed, and I was the plant that continuously needed sun and water. I found my passion and now it is time for you go out and find yours!

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