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Life isn't always easy for everyone. And some days, it does feel like you're in a whole 'nother place. Many of us grew up spending time in school, never doubting that our education and learning might not be preparing us for the real world of successful careers. We don't have to navigate the constant changes in the workplace. Many women, including myself, followed a regular route that, joining a company, going with the flow and learning for someone else to recognize their skills and abilities was the career path. Are you wanting for that person to guide you from the company and help you rise as your business unfolds?

You, like many, are outgrowing your full career potential and you're getting choices where income opportunities emerge as a result of career obsolescence or industry and niche specific seasons in change your career in a way that you desire – to create a career that will be your happily.

One way to achieve success is to view your career as a business and yourself as the company's product. With a thorough understanding of your assets, liabilities, and competencies, you can identify your differentiators – the key to really selling yourself as an integral part of your work environment.

To ride in stability, develop and hone your skills that make you different from your peers. The outlined 10 career steps to create a personal plan for achieving career goals:

1. **Review your assets and liabilities.** This is a unique, yet highly effective way to understand. Begin by thinking about yourself as a set of capabilities and products.
2. **Determine your differentiators.** Identify those things that you do better than other people. Your differentiators might be what others perceive your value as be.
3. **Obtain a 360 degree feedback.** Seek an understanding of perceptions about how others view you. This is highly, genuine feedback from colleagues, friends and family, as those who you are comfortable talking with in direct questions. They begin to challenge yourself by forcing new perspectives, and connect yourself to your own capabilities and strengths.
4. **Identify and evaluate your competitors.** Competition is a fact of life. You need to compete for what you want. Competition and what you can learn from it should be viewed positively and embraced. Sure to be your best by understanding yourself and your own unique attributes as well as those of your competitors.
5. **Determine your goals.** Goals reflect what you want to accomplish in your career. They will lead you in a given state of commitment and determination as you pursue your objectives. Set a few concrete to make a list of your goals. From there you'll want to review your progress in questions one and two and begin thinking about how you might achieve these goals. For example, if you find that you are lacking in skill in network your competitive standing consider taking a class, purchasing a book or developing an evening coffee with an expert on the skill.
6. **Create your strategic plan.** Like using a roadmap to arrive at a destination, having a clear strategic plan to plan helps ensure you achieve your objectives quickly and efficiently. A plan provides a clear state of direction and defines the competencies that will support the achievement of your objectives.
7. **Implement your strategic plan.** Like riding, we often forget if you implement them. You alone are responsible for the success or failure – you are your own CEO. You must combine the development in success with a commitment.
8. **Check your progress.** Planning and implementing a personal strategic plan requires that you review and demonstrate progress. Acknowledge successes in implementation or unsuccessful plans as soon as they become apparent. Do not procrastinate!
9. **Stay focused.** Tenacity, courage and commitment are essential in achieving your career objectives. Staying focused is up to you. Focus on the journey, and be prepared to overcome obstacles.
10. **Celebrate and reward achievements.** Give yourself encouragement and rewards that will help provide motivation and pleasure as you continue achieving your goals. Don't count on others to bring a spotlight on you.

Donna Rosevehl, author and, "The Future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." So go on, dream big! And when you do, don't let anyone's dream steal your personal roadmap and your big dream just to become a reality, because you are not alone in achieving your objectives and achieving your objectives.

Your success can be better by keeping yourself motivated and encouraged. It's all right in the your career. Learn about the success you are seeking. I would even recommend that you sit down with your manager and review your progress and accomplishments.

Remember your way is a long road of your accomplishments is to buy a journal and record your achievements, how you come about accomplishing the tasks, and what you did to reward yourself. You'll be able to look back at your own path and find what worked and what did not.

Most importantly, keep in mind that whether you work in an office, a restaurant, a retail shop, or out of your own home, your career is in your hands. Put yourself in the driver's seat, view yourself toward discussions of your future. Take control and be proactive. Never doubt that your dreams are worthy of your best efforts. It's hard work and you'll want the recognition.

*Lisa O'Leary is author of **Super Small Business Survival's Top 48 Under 48 Business Leaders and CEOs of Career Success, Inc. – Advice that achieving career success requires more than luck, more than hard work. Her book, Your Career, Your Way: Personal Strategies to Achieve Your Career Objectives** is available in major bookstores and online at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. She is a motivational speaker and freelance coach. www.careersuccessinc.com*