

New Leaf Resumes' Monthly Newsletter: Issue 22

Manage Your Career

The Value of Innovation in the Workplace

A recent client was astounded to learn that her talent - creativity - has made her a hot commodity. Well-known in the toy sector, all of a sudden she is being courted by a number of interested parties. In the past her lack of administrative experience was a barrier; now, her creativity and innovation trumps all!

Although we can't all be creative or innovative on the level of Albert Einstein or Picasso, we can indeed foster creative thought. The following article provides five concrete steps, one of which just might lead to your own creative growth.

Interview with Confidence

In last month's newsletter I mentioned that my e-book, *Interview Strategies That Work*, would be out soon. My IT Guy is working out the details for instant order, instant download, but in the meantime, I am offering it to existing clients for \$19.95, payable by PayPal or online interac banking options.

New Ideas Come from Many Sources

This time of year you'll find me pinning Christmas ornaments every spare moment. I've been making "quilted" ornaments for some 20 years now, and have evolved a humble craft into a miniature work of art. I attribute the art not to me but to the craft itself; whoever came up with it was inspired indeed!

Last year my younger daughter, Lasha, came over to help. She applied her creativity and mixed colours that I would not have considered, and added stylistic touches that changed the look to a less formal, less stylized, more funky version. Her creativity inspired and challenged me to mix it up!

Innovation, it seems, is the way of the future. A recent Gallup Management Journal article delved into what has influenced post-industrial revolution business. The first was a supply-and-demand economics; the second, process improvement a la Six Sigma; and the third major business model driving growth will be innovation.

Innovation will not only ensure that you stay competitive for the future, and add great bullets to an updated resume, but this trait or skill can make you a valuable employee right where you are. Some are born inventive, but every one of us can come up with ideas for new ways to do things. Here are a few suggestions.

1. Solve problems, and find solutions. If tools are always missing and files are hard to locate, brainstorm ideas for organization or accessibility. *Necessity is the mother of invention*, as the saying goes.
2. Enhance services. Kick it up a notch to attract new customers and management's attention. Innovation is not restricted to coming up with a cheap energy solution. It can be applied to everything.
3. Read and research. Read newsletters or visit websites that are outside your industry or sector. Amazing ideas come from unrelated areas. Stimulate your "outside the box thought process."
4. Join professional groups or LinkedIn groups, both in your industry and outside it. Listen, ask questions, and watch this activity jumpstart creativity.
5. Subscribe to industry journals for the latest and greatest. Even if you don't come up with the initial idea, your customization of it, to fit your workplace, will be attributed to your suggestion.

Your career is yours to manage. Ignoring this trend will be a career-killer; embracing it will make you a desirable employee, much like my toy-sector client.