



With high school and college student dropout rates reaching astronomical highs, and with international competition in the marketplace exploding, how do we keep our students motivated to stay and excel in school? Through the development of clear, measurable and attainable future career and life goals, students will see tangible “gain from the pain” of staying in school.

The **Career Quest Program** and in the development of their “**Career Owner’s Manual**” students will realize that any challenges they face will be worth overcoming. They will understand the benefit of sacrificing their time, money and effort, when there is now a future worth working towards.

“**Career Owner’s Manual**” is a unique concept. Through development of their “**Career Owners Manual**”, students will discover how they best work, similar to a product owner’s manual. They will develop tips and techniques to ensure optimal performance when professional malfunctions occur. By developing an individualized “**Career Owner’s Manual**” students will discover valuable information on how to navigate their current and future career plans.

Steps to development of “**Career Owner’s Manual**”:

1. **Discover Yourself** - Careers that are interesting and exciting to some are the exact opposite to others, drudgery. By understanding the multiple dimensions that create career satisfaction and how satisfaction is tied to their uniqueness, students will learn how to self-motivate and know what optimal performance looks and feels like. This will be achieved by using both assessments, such as Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and The Platinum Rule, and self-discovery tools designed by Career Quest Coaching.
2. **Build Confidence** - Too often what is easy to students does not equate to important or worthwhile in their minds. Once students understand their uniqueness, as defined in gifts, talents and strengths, they will value who they are and what they bring to the workplace. Tools for this step in the process include Strength Finders and activities designed by Career Quest Coaching.
3. **Define Success** – What does “success” mean for them - is it money or fame, or are they looking for something deeper and more meaningful, such as, job satisfaction, a sense of purpose or making a difference in the world? By understanding their definition of success, the students can select careers that are aligned with their values, strengths, interests, personality and motivators.
4. **Plan Your Future** – Students have learned who they are, know what they are good at, and what success looks like for them. Pulling this all together is the critical step that will ensure students get to where they want to go. Without a solid plan, their career could stop before it starts. SMART goals and planning tools will teach students how to establish daily, weekly, monthly and annual goals. Additionally, they will learn how to implement a goal review process and develop strategies on how to get back on track when milestones are missed.
5. **Make it Happen** – The students have their plan. Now they need to implement their plan by taking the necessary steps to put it into action. Within this section of the program students will also learn how to problem solve and make decisions using various tools and techniques.

With their **Career Owner’s Manual** in hand, the student is now in charge of their career. Any challenges that the students encounter, such as, economy shifts, job changes, a new company or boss will be viewed as an opportunity to adjust and strengthen their plan. Students who go through the **Career Quest Program** will have an advantage, because they can consult and update their **Career Owner’s Manual** to make the necessary adjustments, to adapt rather than collapse from the circumstances in front of them. The students will be informed, empowered and confident to problem solve and make decisions that support their career and life goals. Now, staying in school will be an important step in their plan to career and life success.