



Camille Macchio is the owner of Realistic Alternatives (www.realisticalternatives.com). She can be reached at executivecoach@PM360online.com.

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FOUR MYTHS AND TRUTHS OF SUCCESS

BY CAMILLE MACCHIO

YOU’VE PROBABLY HEARD MANY OF THE CLICHÉS ABOUT SUCCESS: “It’s not what you know, it’s who you know,” “When the going gets tough, the tough get going,” or “If at first you don’t succeed, try again.” People hold many philosophies about success. Some of the things people tell us can be motivating, but some advice can also be misleading. The following truths about many common myths will help you get into the right frame of mind.

MYTH #1

WORK HARD AND YOU’LL SUCCEED

Success is difficult to achieve without putting in some hard work; however, plenty of people who work hard are not as successful as they’d like to be. Hard work is important, but success comes from much more. You can work long hours and feel exhausted at the end of each day, but chances are you won’t feel successful if that’s all you do.

Success comes in many forms. One way to measure your success is to identify specific goals you want to achieve and then work toward meeting them. You must also understand your boss’ as well as your company’s goals and objectives and work toward meeting those as well.

The most successful people understand the importance of combining hard work with the right attitude, good people skills, a willingness to learn, change, and a desire to contribute. Strive to find joy and meaning in what you do.

MYTH #2

SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE ARE THE KEYS TO SUCCESS

There is far more to a job than just showing up and completing your work. Employers expect you to show up every day on time while looking good, enthused, and focused on the job at hand. As basic as these expectations sound, it isn’t easy for many people to show up consistently in this manner. The people who do, however, have an advantage. I’ve never heard of anyone criticized for being too positive or too professional, but

I’ve heard a lot of criticism about people who are negative, unreliable, and difficult to get along with. You will have an advantage in the workplace and in life if you are dependable, professional, flexible, and likeable.

MYTH #3

SOME PEOPLE ARE LUCKIER THAN OTHERS AND, THUS, MORE SUCCESSFUL

Rarely is success because of luck. Although some people appear to have lucky breaks, if you take the time to look at why these people seem lucky, you will see it isn’t due to luck at all. “Lucky” people create their own good fortune, which doesn’t come to them as they sit passively and wait. They are actively creating and going after their goals and the success they seek.

MYTH #4

SUCCESS IS COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE

Everything you do or don’t do will impact your salary and your advancement opportunities. However, success isn’t as complicated or difficult to achieve as you think. Decide what success means to you. Identify all the things you must do to achieve your goals, then actively do those things.

Stay true to yourself and be yourself because you are the difference. It can take years to get where you want to be. Be patient and be persistent. Look around and you will see that *anything* is possible. ○