

Continuous Career Invention

A Very Brief Description of What and Why; But Not How.

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Given that we are better off inventing our unique and personalized career than we are trying to copy someone else's career, what's needed is an "innovation and incubation" environment in which there are sufficient dynamics among a group of people who are solely and singularly focused on fueling and energizing the person "inventing a career." The "innovation and incubation" environment is totally customized to the person and what needs inventing or what needs clarifying before the inventing can accelerate rapidly. Thus, the steps in the invention process are also customized to the uniqueness of each person.

The basis behind the "continuous career invention" stems from the observations that (1) nearly all professions have incredibly valuable roles in society and, hence, an individual has major impacts; and (2) that nearly everyone who ends up enjoying their careers has synthesized their path rather than being given a path or having copied some else's path. In other words, most of us have to invent a way to contributions and excellence; rarely can we copy our way.

Why not be proactive about seizing control of designing a career? It has a much higher probability of significant contributions to society and, as a result, being satisfying. Besides, the pride of excellence beats the pain of mediocrity.



The BRAINS Continuous Career Invention program application is due December 3, 2014. Please completed the attached application form or download a copy (Downloadable application available at <http://depts.washington.edu/brains/inventyourcareerapplication.html>). Email your completed application to brains@uw.edu by December 3, 2014

Request for Participation

Due by December 3, 2014

Submit the completed form to Claire Horner-Devine, Email: brains@uw.edu

What three or four items about your career, if wrestled to the ground, would propel your career? To say it another way, what items are slowing you down, holding you back or keeping you from going full-speed ahead? Use the following form to help you organize your thoughts. If the form does not work for you, explain them in any format you wish. But include the noted information.

Do not think that you have to have these items completely figured out. The point of Continuous Career Invention is to accelerate the understanding of the items to the point where they become avenues of progress not roadblocks. Do NOT report on an item that you already figured out. If you do have all our items completely figured out, you have no need for Continuous Career Invention. You simply need to charge after them. Continuous Career Invention might be useful at a later date.

CAREER DREAM

Do your best to define your dream for your job/career? At retirement if you were looking back over your career what would you consider important? To have this well thought out at the beginning of a career is not a realistic expectation for most people. Just state it as best you can even if it is not all that coherent.

My Dream is:

Initial Thoughts on Which Topics Would Propel My Career

State the 3 most important goals, topics, issues, barriers or worries that you think would propel your career if you had them better specified, understood, or under control. List them in priority order with the one with most impact first. For each item state the benefit you would receive if you made major progress on that item. In the 3rd column list whatever you can about that topic. You might state what is confusing you, state why you cannot get started, or list some actions steps you have in mind for proceeding.

GOAL/TOPIC/ISSUE/BARRIER	BENEFIT TO YOU	ACTIONS/QUESTIONS/CONFUSION

Remember that the Continuous Career Invention process is an innovation and incubation environment where you get focus and clarity to vague goals, issues, barriers and confusion. Thus, you are not expected to come with completed plans on what to do but rather come with items for which you have limited visibility, clarity or understanding on how you will proceed successfully.