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**How To Grow Your Career in 2005**

**By Stephanie Yeh**

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With Christmas just a few days away, there's no better time to rest, relax, and rejuvenate yourself for 2005. If you've got a few days off from work, it's also the perfect time to think about how you can grow your career in '05.

When you work for someone else, it can seem like you have very little control over your career, but you actually have more control than you think. Here are five steps you can take to increase your visibility within your company and expand your career options:

**MAKE TRACKS:** To find out how you can really shine you need to find out as much as you can about all areas of your company. Make tracks and talk to as many different people as you can. Find out what's going in different departments, what's working, and who's in charge. Attend as many company functions as you can. Actively listen to what people have to say, even if they disagree with you. In the process, you'll learn a lot, get inspired by new ideas, and develop more confidence.

**SET QUICK START TARGETS:** Set your sights on achieving from short term goals that will really boost your career in the New Year. Just the act of setting your intention will galvanize you to get moving. Do you want a raise? Different working conditions? To complete a project? To gather the courage to present a new idea you've been working on? To get more comfortable with

your–coworkers? Pick two or three goals that you can achieve in the first quarter of '05.

**LOOK FOR OTHER STARS:** As you move around your organization, look for other rising stars—you may want them as part of your team someday soon. Look for people who have unique talents that complement your own, people whose strengths might help you achieve your goals. Get to know those people and find out what they are interested in. If their interests align with or complement your own, add them to an index rising stars that you want to keep in touch with.

**CREATE A NETWORK:** Even if someone you meet isn't a rising star, they may still be a valuable part of your company network. You need to maintain contact with every part of your company, even if it's not closely related to your work. Bosses look for well–rounded people who have deep and broad knowledge of their companies. Add to your network everywhere you go. Listen deeply to what every person in your network has to say. Even if that information doesn't mean anything to you now, you never know when it might become the answer you're looking for.

**CROSS POLLINATE:** It's easy to get stale at work, especially if you've been in the same position for a while. To avoid tunnel vision and access fresh ideas, look outside your industry. One clever employee suggested applying the timeshare principle employed by corporate jet leasing companies to his company's consulting teams. The result? A new strategy for his company and a promotion for him.

If you want to grow your career in 2005, get it off to a fast start with these five tips—and get noticed! Implementing these five strategies can take less than a couple hours per week, and can result in your career blooming in totally unexpected (and pleasing!) ways.

Stephanie Yeh has spent many years in the business world consulting with major corporations around the world. She has also coached numerous corporate executives and small business owners on business strategy and management. Contact her at [syeh@theartofbusinessbook.com](mailto:syeh@theartofbusinessbook.com) access her work at <http://www.theartofbusinessbook.com>.

**"Is Your Career Your Calling or Just a 9 to 5?"**

**By Yasmeen Abdur–Rahman**

Do you remember your parents asking you what you want to be when you grow up? By the time I was in the 9th grade, my mother started asking me that same question until I graduated from high school. At that time I wasn't 100% sure what career path I would take, but I had several ideas.

Your calling is that passion that you have deep inside - the career that defines your purpose in life. Someone once told me if you find a job that you love you'll never have to work a day in your life. Some of us work in careers for so long that we are numb on the inside and outside. We go from appointment to appointment and our days are so mundane. We hardly get any enjoyment out of what we do because it is just another 9 to 5. Have you recently said, 'I could do this job with my eyes closed?'

People who choose a career, instead of their calling, wake up disappointed that they have to go to work. They hate facing another day. If you find your calling and pursue it, life will become an adventure and not just another 9 to 5.

Ponder over these statements: Your passion directs you to your calling. A calling is who you are. A career is what you do. A calling is 24-7-365. A career is a 9 to 5. A calling is what you would do for free. A career is what they have to pay you to do. A calling cannot be measured with money or fame.

In conclusion, take a few moments to ponder over what is going on in your life today and figure out if it compensates towards your calling. Listen to your mind, body and soul. Don't worry about what others will think or even if they will agree to whatever calling you move towards. Live your life as if tomorrow is your last day on Earth. Enjoy today because tomorrow isn't definite.

This article was written by Yasmeen Abdur-Rahman, Lifestyle Entrepreneur Coach and owner of The Brownstone Workshop located in Cary, NC. If you would like to copy this article, please include the author's credentials. If you are interested in a full, detailed description of lifestyle entrepreneur coaching™ services, kindly go to

or

or call Yasmeen at 919-319-6271.

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