VISIONS OF SUCCESS: GOAL SETTING AND ACTION PLANNING

One of the most consistent findings among researchers on successful and highly effective people is the discipline of goal setting. The more attention devoted to goal setting, developing a plan of action, and monitoring your progress based on your vision of success ultimately will lead to you being more effective and productive in your life.

Once you have decided where you are, who you are, and where you want to go, you then can identify your vision of success. <u>A VISION</u> is a visual image of what one wants to happen in the future. It must:

- Reflect a high standard of performance
- Represent future accomplishments
- Conjure up an image/picture
- Present a unifying theme
- Appeal to shared values

<u>GOALS</u> are the step-by step plan that reflects an organized means by which to reach your vision. Now you need to learn how to establish goals to carry you along the road to success. They should be SMART:

Specific Avoid being too general. The more precise the target, the greater the

commitment to follow through.

Measurable A goal can be measured in terms of cost, quality, quantity, and timeliness.

Attainable A goal should be established by you, the one who wants to benefit from the

challenge/change, which is desirable and achievable.

Realistic Set a realistic goal that provides a challenge to you but make sure it is believable

and conceivable.

Timely To accomplish a goal well-defined deadlines & timeline will provide you with a

list of checkpoints to assess your milestones of success.

You need to consider:

- Obstacles to achieving goals
- Strategies to overcome obstacles
- Ideas for communicating goals to others

Setting goals are essential to help you attain your vision of success and achieving your dreams. When you set goals, you tap into a reservoir of energy, which will motivate you into action. Without goals, you may not have a clear vision of the directions you want your life to take. Ultimately, your goals should create a balance in all areas of your life:

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	(The Why for the Goal/ Reward)	7
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