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Leadership Top-of-Mind:

Our careers often find us focused on how to make more money. When I graduated from college, I had dreams, and was transitioning from a life of research and writing to the strong desire to get a new car, get some new furniture, and live passionately with my free time. My thoughts were a bit misguided though, so I want to share with you what I wish I knew then, with the hopes of inspiring all of us to look beyond worldly possessions and prioritize our focus. At first, you may find yourselves surprised at the world of work. Work often comes with conflicting instructions, nebulous goals, and uninspired teams. You may need to influence co-workers, who are not on board, direct a team that has a differing viewpoints, or perhaps herd cats to a deadline, when few understand the ending goal.

I once completed a report for my management team, and like the child from the movie *A Christmas Story*, I was expecting my manager to go to the chalkboard and write "A++++++"! The feedback I got was more aligned to a particular Scott Adams' *Dilbert* comic strip, where the pointy-haired manager reviewed an employee's work then said, "You are using the letter e too much. And I need you to bold your periods, I can't see them."

These sorts of uninspiring engagements had me questioning things: How did I find myself in job that made me so disappointed with the world of work? The answer began with me chasing worldly possessions instead of doing the work that inspired me. So I leave you with these parting thoughts:

- **It is possible to love your career.**

As [Executive Career Coach Vickie Bevenour](#) teaches us in our CWNC Career Workshops: "Don't walk the cliff and find yourself doing a job you don't like." Chasing the worldly possessions as your main priority will get you there quickly. Set yourself up early to do the work you love. First, and more importantly, you'll get **fulfillment**, and *then* those possessions will follow. Steve Martin once said, "Be so good at what you do that others have to notice." The best way to be *so good at what you do* is to:

- Take the time to learn where your passions are in your field, and
- Ask for the tasks that are most aligned with your passions and natural abilities.

- **Choose truth over harmony**, personal credo of our own [Pam Rivers, CWNC Scholarship Board Member](#)

Harmony required that I obediently continued to do the tasks that ultimately left me disappointed in my career. Truth required that I get honest with myself and map out what I love doing. My passions and talents should align with the tasks that leave me feeling the most rewarded. When faced with the choice of remaining true, or ensuring harmony, know that *truth trumps harmony*.

- **Learn to take emotions out of problems – and when needed, solve again.**

You can change careers any time you like. Anything is possible. If you find yourself discouraged with your career, remove the emotions and look at your career problem objectively. Problem-solving becomes much easier without the emotion, allowing you to reach sound resolution more quickly.

And while you can expect there to be challenges, change, and growth throughout your career, I ask you to ponder input from one of our guest speakers [Morris Wallack](#): **The people around you will always be more important than the tasks.** Stay focused on building positive relationships with your peers, and those amazing worldly possessions will surely follow. [Join us at our next Career Execution Workshop](#) to learn how to take your career by the reins, and to start loving it at the same time!

Dawn Barnett,
CWNC Co-President



Zahira Floyd,
CWNC Co-President



MENTOR Registration Now Open!



The CWNC Mentoring Program is [seeking MENTORS](#) to participate our flagship program that pairs mentors and mentees for a period of six months. Mentors and mentees meet one-on-one to develop a relationship that provides a confidential safe haven for discussing developmental and career goals and aspirations.

[Mentor registration](#) runs from August 1 - 8. Please consider sharing your skills, experience, and insights with this valuable program!

Next Steps

The program kicks-off with a facilitated orientation session scheduled **September 28**, with individual mentoring meetings running from October 2016 through April 2017.

Matches are made by the CWNC Mentoring team based on mentor/mentee profiles. Matches will be announced mid-September, and mentors and mentees will have the opportunity to meet at the September 28 orientation session.

[Visit our website to access all the information you need to register as a mentor.](#)

Interested in being mentored?

Mentee registration runs Aug 1 -8! [Find out more](#) and [register here](#).

Questions?

Contact the CWNC Mentoring team at ConnectedWomennnc@gmail.com.

Mark Your Calendars and Register!

Join us August 24 from 3:00-8:00pm for the third and final **Professional Development Workshop** in our series.

This workshop focuses on **Career Execution** and will feature guest speakers [August Cohen](#), [Modupe Congleton](#), [Meara Kirsch](#), [Kimberlee Spores](#), [Catherine Tuttle](#), and [Dawn Barnett](#). This group of leaders bring extensive expertise in interview coaching, resume development, communications, human resources, change leadership, and professional development. Don't miss out!



Workshop Overview

- 3pm- **Interviewing with Excellence:** August Cohen, Modupe Congleton, Meara Kirsch
- 4pm- **Live Interviewing Workshop:** Kimberlee Spores
- 5pm- **The Power of LinkedIn:** Catherine Tuttle
- 6pm- **Career Project Plan:** Dawn Barnett
- 7pm- **Networking**

[Register Today!](#)

- CWNC Members – **Free** (Not a member? [Join here!](#))
- Guests– \$50.00 (USD)

Special thanks to our sponsor [Qualys](#) and business partner [ECPI University!](#)

Food and [Fitbit](#) raffle courtesy of Qualys, who will also be hosting a recruiting booth at the event. Check out their [job openings](#) today!

Location:

Cisco Campus – 7200 Kit Creek Road, Building 7 -
Research Triangle Park, NC

We look forward to seeing you there!



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CONTINUOUS SECURITY

CWNC – Now More Connected Than Ever!

We're excited about the launch of our new [Members Directory](#)! Members who opted in can share and access contact information with other CWNC members, making it easier than ever to connect and network.

Have YOU signed up?

Go to our [website](#), click "View Profile", then "Edit Profile" to ensure your profile provides the following information correctly:

- First and Last Name
- Organization/Company (current or last)
- Role/Position (desired or current)
- Email Address

(If you *do not* want to share your information, click "View Profile", then click the Privacy tab to adjust your settings.)

Get Involved

CWNC has so many great ways to get involved; just [contact us](#) to learn more.

Internships

We offer opportunities through 3-month custom internships, designed by the intern in partnership with a CWNC Senior Sponsor. This model provides ample opportunities for members and interns to gain experience to help transition into a career focus area.

Volunteer

Join any of our [committees](#) and lend your talents alongside other women to promote career growth in NC. Choose from several areas to get involved including: Marketing, Scholarships, Events, and Program Management.

CWNC Board Members



Dawn Barnett
President



Zahira Floyd
President



Emily De Leon
Treasurer



Pam Rivers
Scholarships



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Programs



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Mentoring



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