

Career Keynotes

Edgar Flynn - Career Specialist - MAE

Class of 2003 Facing Your Future

Life is change; life is facing obstacles. For survivors, obstacles are seen as challenges to be faced and overcome, however negative the initial reaction. These roadblocks give you reasons to grow, to strengthen yourself and your resolve to commit to your future.

You, the 2003 graduates, have successfully overcome one such roadblock – you have earned your high school diploma. All of the MAE staff are proud of your accomplishment, as are your family and friends.

There are four cornerstones to taking an active role in the direction and development of your life and career.

Assessing Yourself

What do you want out of life? What is your vision for your future? Where do you want to be in 1, 3, or 5 years? What actions need to be taken to achieve your goals? What are your strengths? What are areas that need strengthening? What kinds of tasks do you want to do?

In order to answer questions like these, you have to perform a personal assessment of your experiences, values, accomplishments, skills, knowledge, and interests. Of all the skills you possess, which ones are your motivated ones? Motivated skills are those skills you are competent using and you enjoy using.

The choices are yours. You are Me, Inc. In fact, you are the CEO of Me, Inc. Make choices that will be helpful toward reaching the life and career goals you choose. Arthur Ashe's comment is one to remember: **“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”** Solid advice for doers. Continue to be a doer.

Knowing You Are Okay and Valuable

Armed with the assessment information, you are ready for the next personal growth stage, giving yourself the ‘okay’ – the stamp of approval, which can only be given by you. What is your potential? Are you working toward reaching it? If not, why not? Are you willing to plan and take action? When you reach a goal, what new challenges do you set?

Remember, you are a valuable and competent person who is in charge of your life.

Committing to Yourself

Create your vision of your future life. Make the commitment. Set your goals and do what it takes to get the job done. When your vision is a core desire, you will find the energy to make whatever effort it takes to reach it. Set your direction and take the helpful actions that will lead to reaching your vision.

Reaching Your Goal

When you reach a goal, celebrate! “I did it!” Bask in the warmth; reward yourself. THEN, choose a new goal, commit to it. You will reach that goal as well.

“If you are not working today toward the goal you have set for yourself, then you lack faith in your own future.”

