

Semiannual Inspiration: 2013 Lesson – Find Yourself by Losing Yourself in Service

Greetings family, friends, and colleagues,

Can you believe it's already time again for lessons of the year?! 2013 is almost behind us.

However, there is a slight change this year. One lesson transformed my professional life, and I will share only that lesson this year. The story of it appears below, and after that, I make a call for your lesson of the year.

MY LESSON OF 2013

Find yourself by losing yourself in service to others.

I posted this quote from Mandira Ghandi earlier this year, and it took me a few weeks to realize it is my 2013 lesson. As many of you know, when asked to tell someone about myself, my standard reply is, "I am passionate about education and community building, and I am at my best when I am helping others do, be, and feel better." I worked long and hard to ensure that reply captured my passions and values.

Fast forward to late May 2013. Jon and I had just returned from a 12-day tour of Western Turkey, and I began my new role as the program manager of Vanguard's Crew Resource Groups (CRGs) - Women's Initiative for Leadership Success (WILS), Vanguard Black Professional Network (VBPN), Leadership and Engagement for Asian Professionals (LEAP), Hispanic/Latino Organization for Leadership and Advancement (HOLA), and Out Professional Engagement Network (OPEN). Though I did not realize it at the time, this would become the only job in my 15-year career in which I would marry my two passions by losing myself in service to others.

In this role, I support employees (we call them crew members) in building communities that help crew members develop professionally, network, and advance their careers within Vanguard. In other words, I have become the Vanguard crew's best supporting actor, a role that all of you know I relish. Finally, I get to marry my passion for education that my Delaware Investments trainees and Temple students know well with my passion for community building that I developed as a community builder for Muhlenberg College's alumni association and Fast Company magazine's Philadelphia Company of Friends, all in one job!

In summary, in just the past month, I have committed to losing myself in service to others, and in doing so, I have found my true professional self. Even if you don't do it at work, is there a way for you to find yourself by losing yourself in service to others?

YOUR LESSONS OF 2013

Now, it's your turn. Last year, nearly 30 of you shared lessons, and I'd love to see that number double or triple this year! **Please send me one lesson you learned in 2013 by October 15, and please include your location.** I will compile them and send another semiannual inspiration message with the lessons by year end.

CONCLUSION

In 2013, I found myself by losing myself in service to others and in the process reignited my passion for education and community building and my commitment to helping others do, be and feel better. Jon and I wish you happiness this fall (or spring for my friends in the Southern hemisphere!), in whatever way you define it.

As always, you can reach me anytime via email, LinkedIn, or my blog. I look forward to learning from your lessons.

Cheers from Philadelphia,

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*Have you invested in your community today?
The world only spins forward - the great work begins!*

PS – You receive a semiannual inspiration message from me approximately 3 times per year. If you would like to forward my message to others, please feel free to do so. If they would like to be added to the distribution list, please have them email me at BFish@aol.com. And if you ever decide you'd like to be removed from the list, please email me at BFish@aol.com.

PPS – Previous semiannual inspirational messages dating back to June 2008 can be found at <http://brianfishbone.typepad.com/becoming-the-blog/semiannual-inspirational-messages.html>.