

Personal Ethics and Philosophy

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Introduction

As I am pursuing my goal of becoming a Physical Therapist and eventually owning and operating my own outpatient clinic, I carry forward many concepts I have learned through this course. I have gained a better appreciation for what it means to be in business or to be an employee of business. My personal business philosophy has changed as I have read and learned the theories and ideas that have been presented in class. As I wrote in the first week of class my philosophy was, "Successful businesses are based and centered on people. Focusing on employees and improvement of customers' lives makes business real and valuable. I love to add value to people and everything I do" (Business and Me, Class Handout). Much of that is still part of my newly adopted philosophy, but my viewpoint of the statement has changed. My philosophy now is, "As an employee I will strive to add value to everything I will do. As an agent of business, I will do all I can to help achieve the mission and vision of the company, with the knowledge it is all toward increasing its profits. As a Physical Therapist, I will be focused on helping others achieve optimal wellbeing through competence and kindness."

Belief Systems

W.L. Hunt once said, "The first key to success is deciding exactly what it is you want in life." I truly believe that those who know what they want in this life will be more able to succeed. Goal setting is a very important part of who I am and what I do. I also realize that if one has a plan he or she can then move toward accomplishing the goals they have set for themselves. Robert Schuller is quoted as famously asking, "What would you do if you could not fail?" What a great perspective! Why limit yourself by thinking you cannot achieve all that your creative mind dreams?

My goal is to help all those who I come in contact with to see things in this light – that all things are possible. My aim is to help people adopt healthy lifestyle behaviors that are conducive to health, wellness and fitness. My plan to succeed with each person is to help them set their goals and work toward their vision of who they want to be. Throughout my career, I have needed and will continue to need the help of others. I will use those who have taken similar paths in life as mentors. I will also be open to suggestions and help from all those around me and that I come in contact with. I learned recently about the true story behind the movie Rudy and that he used many people as mentors along his life journey and goal of attending and playing football for Notre Dame. He has said that he would not be the same and may never have achieved his goal if he didn't gain knowledge and insight from nearly everyone he interacted with.

I will learn from my mistakes and the mistakes of others. As Thomas Edison said about failure, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Another perspective I have gained during the text book has been from Henry Ford as he writes about his factories keeping no records of experiments, "I am not particularly anxious for the men to remember what someone else has tried to do in the past, for then we might quickly accumulate far too many that could not be done...Then, too, a record of failures – particularly if it is a dignified and well-authenticated record – deters a young man from trying. We get some of our best results from letting fools rush in where angels fear to tread" (Ford, page 517). These are both great viewpoints about failure and how one can achieve more because they have failed, yet learned from their failure. Also, the concept of allowing others to fail with the knowledge that others may be able to achieve something great from what was thought as a failed attempt.

Always Striving to Be Better

I am dedicated to the overall wellbeing of those who I will lead. I will take an active role in teaching people; motivating them and getting them involved with programs that will help them achieve their goals. I will strive to show leadership by following the same program of wellbeing myself. One of the most important skills I strive for is balancing business life with my family and home life. I am dedicated to creating a great home life so I can be well rounded and succeed in all parts of my life. As Benjamin Franklin stated, I will be mindful of all my affairs; “But with our industry we must likewise be steady, settled, and careful, and oversee our own affairs with our own eyes” (Franklin, page 393).

Another area to strive for greatness is people skills. Just as Kendall Willardson, Laboratory Manager at Intermountain Healthcare, declared, “The amazing thing with Intermountain is that we are always looking to get better” (Working for Intermountain Healthcare, video), I will continually strive to be better in each assignment and company I work. I understand that as a staff member, a leader and a Physical Therapist I will be dealing with people and that should be my focus, not the paperwork, though it is necessary in each of these roles. I also will endeavor to be politically savvy and realize that politics play a part of every organization. Additionally, I realize I need to use the politics and environment to better myself and the organization as a whole, not just to “get ahead” of others. I will need to master communication skills – written, spoken and interpersonal. These are key to getting others to follow my lead and teaching.

“Challenges are opportunities to learn and grow” and from the Disney movie Up, “Adventure is out there!” will be my mantras when obstacles arise. Many times people will find that there are great obstacles that will stop or hinder their progress. I know there are many things that could deter me from my ultimate goal but I will strive to continue to pursue my lofty

aspirations. I know in each role of business, I find or will find there will be others that depend on me and those that will be watching me and using me as a mentor. This is one area that will be of greatest challenge to me. As Henry Ford has notably stated, “If you think you can or think you can’t you’re right!” Wherever or whenever I find difficulty in my personal and business pursuits, I will keep in mind this thought.

Conclusion

Lastly, I will endeavor to stay the course in regards to my personal values and standards of integrity, excellence and accountability. I believe that one cannot rise to a greater height than one’s integrity. I will continue to make this a priority for myself. These values and standards will assist me in adding value to everything I do. Just as I learned from my study of Intermountain Healthcare’s vision, I will “continually learn and provide extraordinary care in all its dimensions” (*Mission, Vision, and Values*, page 3). Focusing on my values will allow me to work better with others, strive for excellence in all I do and help increase the efficiency of the company I work for, regardless of which capacity I am in. I will look within myself to change and solve problems first. This will be my focal point of my personal business philosophy of adding value to everything I do.

References

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