

Generations

Active Lifestyles for the 50+ Generation

Of Howard County · VOL. 5 NO. 9

Career Design after 55: Yes, it's Possible.



Many of us think that the only time for career planning is when we are just starting out in the world of work – well that's not so anymore.

Retirement patterns are changing and seniors represent one of the largest growing labor groups in the United States. The need for supplemental income is driving many back into the workforce and for others it is the quest for personal fulfillment. At the same time, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that our job market is going to experience a significant decrease in the number of younger workers.

Now is the time for seniors to position themselves to fill the void...

Myths about senior workers are also changing – many employers are interested in learning how to attract and retain older workers. Besides having more real world experience, older workers usually have a better work ethic and are more dependable than many younger job candidates – making them more desirable to hire especially in our service-driven economy.

Take advantage of this opportunity. Learn how you can take your talents and wealth of experience and craft a new job or career. One definition of career is “course of action through life”, so begin by asking, “What course of action would I like to take next?” For some of us that answer is easy, for others it brings a feeling of trepidation.

Remember we all have talents to share with the world. It may help to make a list of all of the things you enjoy doing and do well. The word enjoy is key here, because at this point in your career, personal satisfaction should be a priority. You've

put in your time; decades of doing many things that were probably marginally enjoyable because putting food on the table and paying for college tuitions were the priority. Now is the time to reap the benefits of all of your hard work and design a career on your own terms.

You may want to think about more flexible work options such as tuning a hobby into a small business or taking your expertise and becoming an independent consultant. There are many alternatives to going back and working 9-5. Create a vision of what working looks like to you at this stage of your life – maybe you have some untapped talents that are waiting to emerge or maybe you want to explore new areas.

Now is the time to do so. Take advantage of the current job market and hiring trends and the need for employers to focus on attracting and retaining our most experienced workers – while creating the job or career of your dreams.

Lisa Dolce is a Career Management Consultant and President of Pinnacle Career Resources, a career coaching and training company. She can be contacted at 410-799-1097 or Ldolce@PinnacleCareerResources.com for more information on career planning and job searching.