

Your “Second Job”

Do you realize you might be working two jobs? You may not be aware of it all the time, but managing your career is like having a second job. Anyone who has experienced the process of finding and landing another position while still employed knows what I’m talking about. Like most people, you may not have time while at your current job to update your resume, search websites and newspapers for job openings, network with past and current colleagues, friends, neighbors, or take time off to go on interviews (often times “secretly”) and make your decision to take or pass on the job. Often times these things get done after hours. Whew! Sounds like a lot of work!

Then, of course, once you land your new position, you are doing your second job *at the same time* as the job you were hired for. There is learning the new job tasks as well as the culture, people and “unwritten” protocol and processes within your organization.

After several months or years on the job, you probably will complete your share of career or development plans. Some companies are better than others at taking these plans seriously. One of the reasons a company will follow “your plan” is to attempt to keep you, the employee, happy and at the company longer. This may or may not be what you want.

With every meeting you attend, report you deliver, or interaction you have with others, you are, by default, working on your second job. You want a promotion? Yep, you are working on your second job then too!

The first step in doing your job well is to recognize that you have this second job. The next step is to talk with your boss of that second job....You! Sit down and ask “your boss” the following:

1. What are your expectations of this “second job?”
2. Where are you struggling the most? (ex: finding time to look for a job, not knowing how to ask for a promotion, not knowing how to get things done)
3. How can “your boss” help you?

I’d be interested to know. Please send a quick email to doreen@waytogoal.com to let me know your biggest challenges on your “second job.” If you have found solutions, I’d love to know that too!

It’s critical to view your “second job” equally important or even more important than your everyday job. Believe it or not, you can manage both jobs well.

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Doreen holds an MBA and has spent over 18 years working at major corporations and small businesses in finance and marketing. As a certified professional development coach at Way to Goal! www.waytogoal.com Doreen specializes in helping committed professionals find careers that are both personally and financially rewarding.

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