

Katzscan Newsletter

Supply Chain Operations & Technologies ~ Vendor Compliance
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A friend and colleague who I've known for 10 years now and have worked with on different projects -- he's a lean engineer and Six Sigma Black Belt -- will call me by the nickname of "Professor" once in a while. I'm not sure where this came from: perhaps it's because I have been known to profess many things.....some of them even factual! ☺ The nickname may stem from some of the clever software solutions I've come up with on our projects together.

Whatever the reason I think it's a pretty good nickname, and now it has a ring of accuracy to it:

Starting this spring term -- from March to May -- I'll begin my teaching career as an adjunct instructor of Information Technology at the North Miami campus of Johnson & Wales University (www.jwu.edu).

(According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics - <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos066.htm> - the post-secondary career track starts at Instructor and then progresses to Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and then Professor. I won't be able to use my nickname in my new role, but I don't want that to stop my friends from using it when they refer to me!)

For those who know me how this all came about should be of little surprise by now: networking and volunteering.

I met one of the university's staff professors who -- after discovering what I did for a living -- asked me to speak to her e-commerce class. I created three presentations and on three separate occasions took the time to provide some real-world insights and information to her classes.

That led to my being asked to present to the entire business department during an in-service day continuing education session. My presentation -- *The Law of Unintended Consequences and the effects on the Education System* -- was exceptionally well-received and ranks as one of my favorites.

So impressed was the audience of College of Business professors that I received other requests to present to different classes. I was asked by the professor who teaches fashion merchandising, retail marketing, and management to participate in a student leadership program, which I was happy to do.

When it came time recently to select adjunct instructors to fill some vacancies my name came up and I received a call to interview. Paraphrasing former radio show host Paul Harvey, I think you know the rest of the story.

Instructing at the college level is something I've thought about and is now happening sooner than later in my career. It's a chance to bring real-world experience into the classroom. The class schedule is an easy fit into a consulting practice like mine; several of the professors I've met at JWU have outside consulting businesses. I've often handled multiple client engagements simultaneously and I view this no differently.

Being a good leader should also include being a good mentor, whether in the classroom or in the conference room, office, or warehouse. I've always made a practice of educating my clients and now I'll have the opportunity to educate people at an earlier

stage. It's a great opportunity and one that I'm really excited about.

I'm ever mindful that the education exchanged will likely be passed both ways: I'm sure I'll learn from my students as well as they will learn from me, and I'm sure this experience will be an education itself.

Much of the chaos I quell for my clients revolves around a lack of training, mostly when it comes to their business applications software, typically their Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, and on good operations procedures. If you know if a company - - maybe your own -- suffering from confusion and conflict it may be from a lack of proper training on what to do and how to do it.

Thanks.

Norman

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