
BEAUMONT COUGARS FOOTBALL

EXCELLING AT WHAT YOU DO

What are the characteristics of people who excel at what they do? There are 5 traits of those who make it to the top:

1. **PEOPLE WHO EXCEL WORK WITH ENTHUSIASM.** Emerson once said, "Nothing great has ever been accomplished without enthusiasm. Regardless of whether the job is big or small, give it your best." Great performers give their best effort, no matter what the size of the audience.
2. **PEOPLE WHO EXCEL SHARPEN THEIR SKILLS.** They never stop developing... growing... learning... improving. *"If the ax is dull, and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success."* (Ecclesiastics 10:10) It takes more than desire to excel, it takes skill! Remember - you're never wasting time when you are sharpening your "ax".
3. **PEOPLE WHO EXCEL KEEP THEIR WORD.** They are reliable. They can be counted on to do what they say they'll do. So they excel because people of integrity are rare in our society. **Reliability beats talent in the long run.**
4. **PEOPLE WHO EXCEL MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.** Even under pressure...or change...or unrealistic demands, they don't allow themselves to become negative. Complainers never excel at anything except complaining.
5. **PEOPLE WHO EXCEL DO MORE THAN IS EXPECTED.** This is a secret that every successful person has discovered. You'll never excel by only doing what is required - the bare minimum.

Oscar Hammerstein told a story of seeing the top of the head of the Statue of Liberty up close from a helicopter. What impressed him was the incredible detail the artist had sculpted on an area of the statue that the artist never expected anyone to see. The artist had no idea man would someday fly above his statue!

When you are tempted to cut corners and you think "No one will ever know."

Remember, we live in a knowledge-based society, and knowledge in every field is doubling approximately every seven years. This means that you must double your knowledge in your field every seven years just to stay even. You're already 'maxed out' at your current level of knowledge and skill. You've reached the ceiling in your career with your current talents and abilities. If you want to go faster and farther, you must get back to work and begin to prepare yourself for greater heights. You must put aside the newspaper, turn off the television, politely excuse yourself from aimless socializing and get back to working on yourself.

A great quote is provided by Abraham Lincoln with regards to preparation. It was a statement he made when he was a young lawyer in Springfield, Illinois. He said, 'I will study and prepare myself, and someday my chance will come.'

If you study and prepare yourself, your chance will come as well. There is nothing that you cannot accomplish if you'll invest the effort to get yourself ready for the success that you desire. And there is nothing that can stop you but your own lack of preparation.