## Equip Them to *Thrive*, Not Just Survive

#### Dennis J. Trittin, CFA President & CEO LifeSmart Publishing, LLC





What I Wish I Knew at **18** 

## Houston, we have a problem

- The US college completion rate in *six* years at *four*-year schools is a mere 59%
- Only 78% of first-year college students return to their university for their sophomore year
- 36% of college grads regret their major
- Demand for mental health services on campuses is soaring, especially for anxiety and depression
- JAG students are even more vulnerable due to lack of modeling, vision, hope, and networking
- We need to help them thrive, not just survive



# Every student has a unique design and destiny ...



## Will they achieve it?



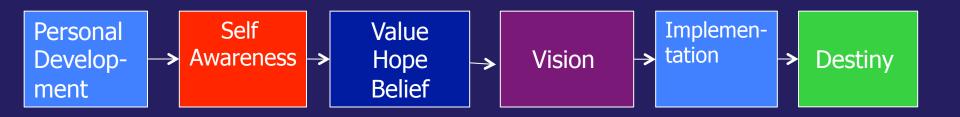


#### Or miss it?





## The Pathway to Destiny





#### **Desired Student Outcomes**



- Solid leadership and decision-making skills
- Deeper self awareness
- A greater sense of value, hope, and belief
- A positive vision and roadmap for their lives
- Positioning for career and life success



#### **Curricular Vision**





#### **Curricular Vision**



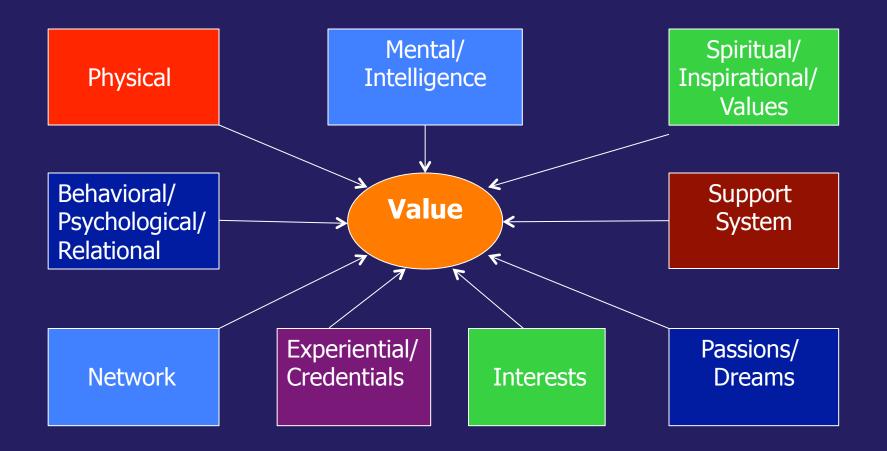


## **Facilitating Self-Awareness**





#### **Unlocking Assets, Revealing Value**





## Constraints

- "Contra assets"
- Fear of failure
- Lack of self confidence and sense of worth
- Guilt, shame, and discouragement
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Unhealthy modeling
- Remember, today's constraint may become tomorrow's inspirational asset!



## **Mining Your Treasure**



http://www.dennistrittin.com/resources/PersonalBalanceSheet\_05-15.pdf



## **Personal Balance Sheet**

- Facilitates holistic self discovery by identifying assets and constraints
- Inspires hope and vision for the future
- Provides a game plan for personal growth
- Includes perspectives from self and others
- Inspirational, revelational, relevant, and fun!



#### Sample Lesson

#### Mine Your Treasure p. 125/55



#### **Curricular Vision**





#### "Leadership is action, not position."

~Donald H. McGannon



#### Establishing a Personal Leadership Foundation



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What I Wish I Knew at 18



#### Strategic Perspective and Focus

- Discover Your Purpose and Inspiration
- Don't Define Success by Riches
- Plan, Practice, and Persevere to Succeed
- Take Risks, Even if you Might Not Succeed





#### **Character and Ethics**

- Preserve Your Reputation and Integrity
- Give Everything Your Best
- Embrace Constructive Feedback
- Be an Encourager and Always Look for the Best in People





## Relationships and Communication

- First Impressions Are Huge
- Be Inquisitive When Meeting Others
- Connect with People Who Share Your Interests and Values
- Steer Clear of Destructive People
- How You Say it Can Matter More than What You Say





## Personal Productivity and Discipline

- Set and Periodically Assess Your Goals
- Become a Masterful Decision Maker
- *Time Is Precious—Use it Wisely*
- Don't Let Technology Control Your Life





## Overcoming Adversity

Recognize Adversity is a Fact of Life
Understand Adversity Can be Preparation for Greater Things & Often Makes Sense Later
Take Charge of Worries & Release Your Pain
Take Seemingly Insurmountable Challenges One Step at a Time



## **Leadership Themes**

Self Awareness Vision Intentionality Personal Brand Positivity Productivity

*Resilience Communication Relationship Building Other Centeredness Balance* 



#### Sample Lesson

#### *Adversity Can Be Preparation for Greater Things:* p. 128/104



#### **Curricular Vision**







#### Career Readiness Components

- Exploring
- Qualifying
- Marketing
- Excelling



## **MVP Strategy One:**

#### Model the qualities employers value





#### Here's what they want...





## What Employers Say They're *Getting*

- Entitlement mentality
- Unreliability
- Poor social skills and manners
- Disrespect
- Fear of failure; difficulty handling feedbackDistractibility



#### NOW HIRING MUST HAVE A CLUE

I

## **MVP Strategy Two:** Deliver EXCELLENT performance





#### **Performance Appraisal—Abbreviated Sample**

GOALS	Weighting	Rating
Goal 1: Description/Review	XX%	1-5
Goal 2: Description/Review	XX	1-5
JOB PERFORMANCE		
Quality of Service	XX	1-5
Productivity	XX	1-5
Teamwork	XX	1-5
Client/Business Relations	XX	1-5
Communication	XX	1-5
Attitude	XX	1-5
OVERALL RATING	100%	X.X



## **MVP Strategy Three:**

#### **Contribute to your employer's success**







## Marketing

- Searching for available positions
- Building your network of ambassadors
- Inventorying your skills and edge
- Developing effective written documents
- Mastering the interview and follow up
- Secret tip: the best interview question



#### Sample Lesson

#### *Learn to persuasively market yourself* P. 90/173



# College & Career Readiness

#### Affirmation





#### Leadership





#### Relationship

Modeling

#### Commitment

Fun

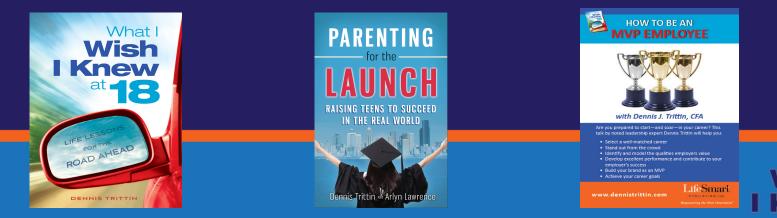


LifeSmart Publishing, LLC Versatile Resources for Educators, Counselors, Mentors, and Families

What I Wish I Knew at 18: 109 success pointers for teens

Student Guide: comprehensive Ldrship & Life Skills program

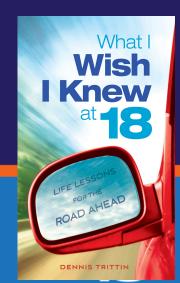
Parenting for the Launch: Game plan and strategies to build strong relationships and position teens for life success



What

## A Closer Look at WIWIK@18

- Comprehensive vision for successful living
   Personal leadership and soft skills
- Wisdom for key decisions based on the practices of admired, successful leaders
- Relational learning supported by clinical research on what teens need to thrive
- Conversationally and universally written for young and old alike



## **About our Resources**

- Generally for upper high school grades but easily adapted to lower grades
- Used as a core or as supplements
- Custom training manual for JAG application; numerous PBL opportunities
- High level of flexibility for facilitators
- Invaluable, relevant, and interactive content
- Targets key concepts that promote life readiness

What I Wish I Knew at 18

#### Distinctions

- Fulfills:
  - 23 of Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets<sup>®</sup>,
  - 14 of Key Workplace Readiness Skills (VA), and
  - Over 50 FCS National Standards/Competencies
- Acclaimed by educators, business leaders, mentors, and parents
- Emphasis on practical, real-world application



#### May they soar like eagles and fulfill their dreams!





## **Contact Information**

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#### THANK YOU for building the next generation of honorable leaders. We salute you!

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