

OCCUPATIONAL CHOICE & CERTAINTY

By Jack Geary.

There is no theory, tests, computer programs, method, course, or gooro that will tell show you how to make occupational choice with CERTAINIY. These resources at best represent the OPINION of some PERSON based on their understanding and logic of what they think you should do, couched in smoke and mirrors consisting of computer print outs.

All occupational choices will have some risk that the choice will not work out- due to internal events under your control as well as external events that are not under your control. For example, an internal risk is that you may become dissatisfied, change your mind, or develop an illness; an external reason could be due to the economy, technological change, company decision, or a change in state and federal laws.

No one owns a job or the job title, notwithstanding, seniority, unions, and contracts. A job is not a long-term parking permit- and no company lasts forever. We live in a 'market economy' based on a 'capitalistic system' rather than a 'central controlled' workforce system with related 'living wage' provisions. Companies will succeed or fail. People will succeed or fail. That is the beauty of capitalism.

There are people who prefer the 'workforce investment act' type programs and other highly regulated programs; who prefer "living wages," sustainable wages (what's that?), and who look to government controls for the promise of security. Fortunately, the systems currently in place allow for individual initiative- acceptance of the risk- that is good.

HOW DO YOU OPERATE IN THIS SYSTEM

- Look for the CLUES, such as:
 - Aptitudes- things you do well- noticed by others
 - Interests- activities you perform; hobbies; clubs
- Employment and volunteering experience
- Discover a better way of meeting people's needs- entrepreneurship
- Research the occupational groups and clusters
- Build on your skills and insight
- Related your skills and aptitudes to occupational clusters
- Understand sales and marketing; take a course or seminar in "sales skills"
- Learn about what customers or clients 'need' and how you will satisfy the need with the company's resources
- Learn how to add-value to the employer's mission in satisfying a need
- Think of preparing for an occupation or career as if you preparing a BUSINESS PLAN because you will be investing TIME (K-13, + 2 to 8 years +) and investing MONEY (\$40 to \$100K) to acquire training
- Plan for risk and plan to manage risk.