



Dedicated to the development of capacity and capabilities in adults for change and growth.

John Inman and Associates

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Departure from Technology

To: [Don Prickel](#)

Sent: Wednesday, December 12, 2001 10:04 AM

Subject: Don, here is my resume in PDF format

Don, I am on the move and actively looking. If you have any leads at all, please let me know. I have called Lori Gillespie at Xerox OPB twice but have not received a call back. If you have any influence or can get a resume to her, I do not have her e-mail address, please jump right in. I am going to be in OD and training one way or another. CC would be good as well but lower paying. Talk with you soon. Take care and thank you for being a friend and mentor!

Discussion of critical leap

On December 7, 2001, I lost the last Sales and Marketing Executive management position of my career. This also marked the end of my technology career as well. All at once, after only 8 months with FPC, 8 years in technology, and 15 years in business development management, I was out and now committed to move into OD and training. I started the journey to look for a new career in a new industry, one that would let me fully use the knowledge that I was gaining in my masters program. Without Don's willingness to listen and encourage me, I might have totally lost faith in this journey. My conversations with Don proved invaluable in helping me construct my new future.

This was indeed the turning point in my professional career away from operations and into OD and training. It took a loss of a career and job to force me to leave the security of what was comfortable. This was a God send but one in which the golden lining was not apparent at the time. I was also confident that employment would come soon; it had always done so before. However, over the next 8 months, employment evaded me and my resolve and my reserves were stretched to the brink of collapse. Without a doubt, the fellowship I enjoyed in the cohort was an extraordinary benefit to me during this long journey.

Alignment with metaphor and learning philosophy and references to literature

I firmly believe that one can not give away what one does not own. This is in itself a metaphor and also a foundation piece to my metaphor: "For me, teaching is providing new road maps for learners on a life long journey... I model my personal journey as an example of how to use new road maps to thrive in a dynamically changing life and world." My experiences provide an example of my personal journey that I can now provide as a model for other learners. My experiences as a model can now be given away to others. I am not sure that I want to continue experiencing all of these fun events, however they are a benefit never the less. As painful as these life changes are, they are the very essence of my metaphor of teaching and learning. I will continue for the rest of my life to use my personal journey as an example of a new road map for learners who seek to thrive in a dynamically changing life and world.

My foundation theories supported me through my journey. Self-regulation from Social Cognitive Theory (Schunk, 2000, pp. 78-118) was pivotal to my ability to apply my learning, self adjust my journey, set goals, and persist in the face of overwhelming obstacles. Cognitivism provides the context for my journey especially through internal and external conversations and reflection in a real life application. These all have helped me shape my journey. Without a doubt, I continuously constructed new meaning about my journey and its impact on my family, my future, and me (Schunk, 2000, pp. 229-232). In fact, as I continued this journey over the next 8 months, I reconstructed my framework many times.

The learning during this journey was experientially based (Kolb, 1984). During this period, multiple conversations helped me experience new learning. Each day, week, and month that passed yielded more learning, growth, and change, all of which was created through conversations (Baker, Jensen, & Kolb, 2002). This period in my life has been one of the most transformative periods I have ever experienced and will help me create the future I envision.

References

Baker, A., Jensen, P., & Kolb, D. (2002). *Conversational learning: An experiential approach to knowledge creation*. Westport, CT: Quorum Books.

Kolb, D. (1984). *Experiential learning: Experience as the source of learning and development*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Schunk, D. (2000). *Learning theories: an educational perspective* (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc.