

The Training Post – Summer 2023 QC Responses

While pondering this question, I envision myself as a character in a science-fiction film where I have a brief moment to dispense a few quick facts about the future to my younger self. The details of the communication are three-fold: remember that everyone needs a chance, be mission-driven, and listen to decipher facts from the qualitative input of others. Why? Each of us deserve a chance at something, and you never know when you might be the catalyst for change that someone needs, or if you are seeking an opportunity to create a change in your own life. Secondly, mission-driven people are not team players, but they exhibit other intangible, personal skills, such as reliability. Dependable people drive human progress. Lastly, review the facts, no matter the situation. Avoid letting your heart rule your mind. Identify the facts of the circumstance now, in order to help critically think through and creatively problem-solve for the future. For those who know the G.I. Joe public service announcement from the 1980s, "Now you know. And knowing is half the battle..."

Karl Miller

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To follow your passion. Chances are, if you are passionate about something, you will excel at it. Happiness at work bleeds into other aspects of your life.

Chris Ann Wright

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I would tell my younger self to find two mentors. One who is a strong and transparent leader with healthy people engagement skills to inspire and motivate teams. And the other who is a more critical thinker that can operationalize policy and develop strategy that improves short- and long-term outcomes. In addition, I would advocate for more training for administrative and program support.

Jennie Davis

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Always embrace change as it oftentimes brings opportunities.

Julia Gauntlett-Brown

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OMG excellent question! The advice I would give is: 1. Relax! After 31 years and 5 state departments (27.5 permanent), I learned the world did not end if the little issues that occurred throughout my career weren't solve immediately. 2. Be Kinder- At some point in my career, I learned the workplace can be a dumping ground for employee problems. Nine times out of ten, it had nothing to do with me, so I could have had a little more understanding instead of lashing out. 3. Take Advantage of Opportunities- whether it was training or applying for a new position. While I always "raised my hand" to help others, so to speak, there were a few opportunities I could have taken advantage of but didn't because of comfortability-ie short commute, training hassles, lacking a certain skill set etc. Now that I'm looking forward to retirement in a couple of years, I hope my advice can help employees new to public service.

Adrienne R. Brown

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Do not underestimate yourself! You are capable of more than you know!!

Sarah Hazen

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Always strive for excellence, not for perfection. You'll never be perfect. There's always room for improvement. Give yourself grace when you mess up. Grow from it and keep moving forward with humility and integrity.

Nicole Benowitz

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Follow your heart, passions, and interests, work hard, and never stop learning.

Deven Patel

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No matter what you select as a career as long as you put your 100% in what you do and keep up with the learning, you are well advance in your career.

Neha Patadia

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Always keep learning. Sign up for all available training courses. Move out of your comfort zone and apply for jobs that might be at another state office or facility. Do not let coworkers/administrators talk you out of applying for a position.

Linda B. Berrios

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Find a gentle way to ask the uncomfortable questions. I believe it may help to provide insight to an unclouded path.

Regina Williamson

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If I were providing my younger self with career advice, I would say the following: "Be patient with yourself, young one. You are still learning and growing; therefore, deserving of making mistakes. Remember to never sell out your morals, but do not forget that making it right sometimes is less important than making it work. "Good enough" is sometimes exactly that and all that is needed. However, it should never become an excuse for sloppy work."

Gina Pearson

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To be patient. Working in State Government isn't a sprint, it's a marathon that takes patience to get to where you want to go. 33 years in government service has taught me that.

John Cappello

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Say yes to every assignment, project, or role that you assume you would fail at. Opportunities that make you doubt your abilities are just chances to stretch and grow your skills. It's the mistakes we make that offer the greatest lessons to learn.

Christopher Davis

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Dear younger self, I want you to know that the journey ahead will be tumultuous. You will be knocked down a few times, but never knocked-out. You will find that you are capable of weathering any storm that comes your way. Your perseverance will be the guiding force that propels you forward, enabling you to turn the tides that try to wash you away. Embrace the challenges, learn from the setbacks, and never lose faith in yourself. The future holds remarkable possibilities, and you are destined for greatness that will make your children proud.

Doug Johnson

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The career advice that I would give my young self is work hard in life and everything will fall into place.

Ellis Jones

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Definitely educate yourself on the civil service processes and positions. Know how things work; promotions, announcements, etc. You'll feel more empowered if you have a better understanding of the whole system.

Autumn Gerena

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Finish school despite what may happen along the way.

Mary Walker

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It is okay to be ambitious and strive to make a decent salary but take a moment to reflect on what is truly important to you first. Learn your passion and turn it into a career. This way work is more meaningful, and you can provide the best representation of your authentic self. A cliché, "money cannot buy happiness", yet a true statement. So, younger self, know yourself first to prevent from chasing to discover "what do I want to be when I grow up". An answer you may never discover. Live life by keep learning, take chances, explore options, interact with others, and the fulfilling manifestation of your dreams will happen!

Dr. Carrie Freeman-Wright

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Never be afraid to take the opportunities available to you. And treat everyone with respect because the same ones you think are below you today can be over you tomorrow.

Fatimah Pough

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Don't worry about "getting ahead". Just do your very best in the job you have now and things will fall into place.

Jackie Chadwick

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NEVER give up!

Jessica Sedlack

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Search for jobs that I'd want to work towards getting. Start with Civil Service opportunities, and set my goals based on the job requirements and descriptions.

Paul Yennior

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