

Suzi Strong is a testament to the power of proactive self-improvement, continuous learning, and relentless determination. Throughout her career at JMU, Suzi's journey from a wage employee to a successful manager is marked by her ability to recognize opportunities, seek guidance, and embrace challenges.



Background

Suzi began her career at JMU as a wage employee, assisting an administrative assistant in an academic department. She was driven by a strong desire to succeed and realized the importance of taking action to achieve her goals.

Early Actions and Learning

Recognizing her own potential, Suzi didn't settle for her initial role. She proactively sought additional responsibilities and took on tasks beyond her core duties, such as assisting with special events. Her dedication to excellence, punctuality, and a willingness to learn made her stand out to her boss.

Strategic Growth and Adaptation

When a job opportunity outside her department arose, Suzi applied, and despite not getting the position, she used the experience to learn and grow. She identified areas for improvement and actively pursued opportunities to gain experience in areas such as donor relations. By continuously seeking feedback and guidance from mentors, she ensured she was building the necessary skills.

Stepping into New Roles

With her accumulated skills and determination, Suzi eventually secured a full-time administrative assistant position. She dedicated herself to excelling in this role before considering new horizons.

Continuous Learning and Skill Enhancement

Suzi's desire to improve led her to the Talent Development Department (TD), where she identified competencies that could enhance her abilities. She chose relevant courses to strengthen her skills, showing her commitment to growth within her current role.

Exploring New Horizons

As Suzi dreamed of a future with more responsibility, she recognized the importance of skills in finance-related tasks. And she seized a similar opportunity at her church. This initiative showcased her willingness to embrace challenges and learn.

Seizing Leadership Opportunities

Suzi's proactive nature led her to step into leadership roles, both at her church and within her workplace. She embraced new responsibilities and challenges, all the while seeking further growth through additional courses and experiences.

Development and Supervisory Skills

Suzi's commitment to learning and development led her to expand her skills into management and leadership. She actively participated in JMU committees and took on the task of organizing and guiding interns, demonstrating her ability to mentor and manage others.

Recognizing Career Growth

Suzi's initiative and continuous self-improvement efforts did not go unnoticed. Her boss recognized her additional responsibilities and accomplishments, leading to a well-deserved pay increase.

Evolving Career Path

As Suzi's journey continued, she found herself equipped with skills that aligned with a managerial position in a different department. Through effective resume crafting, leveraging her experiences, and showcasing her commitment to growth, she successfully secured the role, leading a team and managing a program.

Conclusion

Suzi Strong's journey from a wage employee to a successful manager at JMU is a testament to her unwavering determination, proactive mindset, and dedication to continuous learning. By recognizing opportunities, seeking guidance, and embracing challenges, Suzi carved out a fulfilling career path for herself.

She set goals, understood expectations, assessed her skills, sought honest feedback, took initiative, networked and built relationships, demonstrated leadership, was adaptable, showed results, and sought additional professional development.

Her success is a shining example of how an individual's initiative and commitment can lead to a rewarding and impactful professional journey.