



Student Membership

Thank you for becoming a student member. We'd like to ensure that you are enjoying this tremendous opportunity in your professional development. As you are aware, student membership is free only if you are a full-time student in an accredited, degree-granting institution and do not hold full-time employment in contract management or a related field.

If you no longer meet this criteria, you may be eligible to become an associate member if your annual salary is \$35,000 or less, or you can become a regular member. You can change your membership status by contacting memberservices@ncmahq.org.

ContractManagementJobs.com

One of the best benefits you receive as an NCMA member is free access to our jobs board at www.ContractManagementJobs.com. This is the premier electronic recruitment resource for the industry. Here, employers and recruiters can access the most qualified talent pool with relevant work experience to fulfill staffing needs. Active job seekers can showcase their skills and work experience to prospective employers to find the best job opportunities, while others can take advantage of networking, training, and career development services. Whether you're looking for a new job, or ready to take the next step in your career, we'll help you find the opportunity that's right for you. There are currently **219** worldwide positions being advertised.

Generation Passion

More than money, young acquisition professionals seek a mission.

Wesley Beemer woke up at 5:30 am on October 5 with a day of paperwork ahead of him. The contract specialist at Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, DC, planned to look for missing signatures, misplaced documents, and numerical errors in orders made against a standing construction contract for base maintenance. Most of us might balk at such seemingly mundane tasks, but ginger-haired Beemer rode the Metro to work in good spirits.

The reason for his cheery mood became apparent shortly after he walked through the front gates of the base. There, an old Air Force fighter jet stood on a patch of dewy grass. It was the site of one of Beemer's projects. He recently had approved a delivery order for a contractor to erect poles around the jet to display the flags of the states and U.S. territories. Even as a first-year contract specialist with only five months of experience, he already was in charge of managing contractors, money, and projects to improve the base. Such responsibility is largely why he entered the field in the first place. "There were higher pay grades and more opportunities, and you have to constantly stay on top of things," says Beemer, 29.

To read on, visit www.govexec.com/features/1206-01/1206-01s3.htm.

Finding a Career that FITS

Here are some quick tips for finding a career that is right for you and for making a career transition.

Take a deep breath. Take some pressure off this process. We tend to take this so seriously that we can end up becoming tight and stressed about it—that never helps. Relax and know everything will work out.

Believe in yourself. Have confidence that you will figure this out. The more confident you are, the more motivated and successful you will be.

Realize this is a process. Career transition is a process that can take some time. It is ok that it does; you want to find the right fit for you.

Consider all of the components of a satisfying career. One thing I commonly see people do is take a job that meets some of their needs, but not all of them. Find something that meets your criteria; don't just settle for something because it's offered.

Start now. Don't wait until you're in pain and feeling desperate.

Create a transition plan and be committed. Create a plan for the change. Don't just jump into it without thinking. Be 100 percent committed to the process.

Get support. Find someone who can support you in your journey—a coach, a friend, a mentor.

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Brainstorming Your Ideal Career Path—Dream First

You need to be practical in taking the steps to find a career that you enjoy. But you also need to dream, and I recommend dreaming first. Dreaming first helps you brainstorm all the possible career ideas that might work for you before you get logical and start to figure out *how* to make it happen.

Take some time to think about and write down your responses to these questions.

- What's the one thing that drives you to get out of bed each morning and face a new day?
- Recall your proudest moments in life. What were you doing when these took place? What gifts or talents of yours manifested themselves at such moments?
- If you had a secret superpower, what would it be?
- What's your daydream of the perfect job for you? What are you doing exactly? Which tasks do you take care of yourself, as opposed to the things that other people will handle?
- Is there someone in life that you admire, look up to, or even envy because you wish you had the life, career, or experiences they have? What do they do and what part of that do you find attractive?
- Which parts of your current job do you dislike and why? What would you want to have instead?

For more help on this subject, visit www.halliecrawford.com.

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About the Author

Discover the components essential to a satisfying career today. Want free tips, tools, and expert advice on finding a career you're passionate about? Visit certified career coach Hallie Crawford at www.halliecrawford.com. Sign up for Hallie's monthly e-newsletter right now at www.halliecrawford.com/newsletter.html.

Renegotiating with Integrity

By Marc Freeman

Negotiating is a necessary part of life. Most of us don't realize how often we negotiate deals and relationships. While negotiation is an essential skill, renegotiating is far more tightly woven into the fabric of our lives. Renegotiating is the art of altering, revising, or changing a previously negotiated relationship. This relationship can be in the form of any professional or personal contract or commitment involving a written or verbal promise.

But what is renegotiation? It is basically renegeing on a promise or commitment. We often don't think very highly of people who fail to keep their promises or commitments. Nevertheless, it is possible to renegotiate with integrity. We can renegotiate successfully and keep our reputation intact—whether we're the ones who must break a commitment, or the ones on the receiving end of a broken commitment.

Click [here](#) to read the full article.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or concerns about this newsletter's content, please send them to John Wilkinson at jwilkinson@ncmahq.org.