



Dear Team Member,

I decided it was the first of January and time to plan my goals for 2010. I sat down and began my planning...

One problem I've dealt with in the past is maintaining focus on the prize. I may start the year with fountain pen or computer keyboard blazing, but winter doldrums fence me in, spring fever skips through my work, summer fun beckons for play time, and fall festivities fetch my fancy. In other words, life happens, and sometimes, those roadblocks slow down the journey to the goal. And, sometimes, goals shift or are left unmet during the year, causing motivation to wane when I need it the most.

So I decided on a S.M.A.R.T plan - set my specific action plan, made attainable and timely goals and realistically set my measurements. But I forgot one important thing...

Specific Measurable Attainable Realistic Timely

The first thing I would like each of you to do is to start by thinking "inside-the-box." What I mean is to start from the beginning. Before we can start thinking "outside-the-box, we need to understand what options and opportunities are right here for the taking? Take time to draw up a list on items you are already knowledgeable and have expertise. You will find that this list helps you make it to the next step of creative thinking.

Outside-the-box thinking can generate ideas for processes, techniques, and outcomes that are innovative and WOW-generating. But the resulting ideas will flop in a climate in which the people involved ignore the inside-the-box ideas that are right in front of us daily.

Another thing I discovered over the years is that the road to success is always under construction. We change, life changes, economy changes and we are in charge of the outcome. How boring life would be if everyday was the same, we never challenged ourselves and life had nothing more to offer than waking up, working and going to bed.

The plan you should put together for 2010 should consider the construction, it should be "inside the box", and most of all should have openness to do different things and to do things differently.

Happy New Year and welcome to 2010!

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