

Mike Wysocki

Keynote Proposal

How to Choose a Career That Will Offer Satisfaction and Success + Tools for Landing the Opportunity.

Abstract

Most students plow through college with only vague plans about entering corporate America. No wonder so many careers turn out to be dull and unfulfilling. Author Mike Wysocki (*Careers By the People*) brings vast research and experience to the question every ambitious student wants to know: What's the best profession for me? With perspective and wisdom culled from surveying hundreds of workers from the corporate landscape and humorous stories from his own occupational mishaps, Wysocki offers this amusing, mentor-like talk to offer encouragement and practical wisdom for students preparing for their careers.

As a first generation, low-income student, Wysocki never thought about planning a career. He had no idea about strategy, professionalism or even attire (luckily for him, he was aided by sympathetic, fashion-forward associates). His intense work ethic, solid networking skills and a bit of luck guided him towards several positions in the cutting-edge field of cybersecurity. As he would learn, however, earning a good living has nothing to do with satisfaction.

Wysocki became a successful corporate sales zombie, amply rewarded but deeply unfulfilled. His dissatisfaction prompted a quest to discover how other workers managed to find meaning in their work. Thus was born *Careers By the People* -- and a profound understanding of how people find satisfaction in their occupations. The opportunity for students to hear from experienced professionals about career readiness is sparse. Through pragmatic advice, Wysocki opens the doors to their futures. He began to research occupations, to learn how others view their professions. Over time, he realized that happiness and fulfillment are attainable—but only if you make them a conscious element of career planning. Why had this deeper practical concern been absent from his own vocational coming-of-age? *Careers By the People* is the steppingstone that will assist them with the question, what next?

His story ties together his experiences by informing how he should have prepared and what would have helped improve his journey.



Learning Objectives

- Learn how to value and zero in on your real interests and avoid the boredom and malaise that inevitably comes with choosing a job for only financial gain.
- Discover the power of applying soft skills to increase your value and net worth within your career track.
- Learn about the myriad of programs and opportunities to prepare for your ideal career path.

“Careers By the People is one of the most informative and educational manuals to come out so far this decade!”

– Roy Burr, MBA Academic Advisor Alcorn State University

References

Boston University
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of New Hampshire
Hawaii Pacific University
Cal State (Dominguez Hills)

Holbrook Middle High School
New Milford High School
Ankeny Community School
District Orbis Program
Randolph High School