

About Me and My Calling

A vocation is an individual's choice of occupation which reflects personal preferences and interests. A career is not just a series of jobs; instead, 'it's a continuous process of lifelong learning, growth, development, and transition' through which individuals identify their 'calling' (here comes Mark Savickas)—recalling Maslow's self-actualization.

A calling is an individual's consuming passion for a particular career domain. It contributes to a sense of personal meaning and purpose. So, the desire to enter a given work area means you have chosen your career path (a bit Freudian and Gottfredson's circumscription), while selecting an academic discipline is the second step toward that goal.

I am also thinking about the protean career, a relatively new concept in which individuals are self-directed and driven internally by their values. There are two other new concepts – the 'boundaryless career' and 'career recycling.' Nowadays, on average, an individual goes through 12 different careers.

Identifying one's self-concept is more important than anything else in career decision-making. Self-concept is the subjective and objective views of the self. I managed to identify my self-concept at the higher secondary level, shrugging off the external world's feedback and switching from science to humanities. After that, I studied English to become a journalist. A job matching the self-concept ensures satisfaction and success. It was Donal Super until this point.

Journalism taught me to write the day's best story in 25 words (a well-written news intro is half the story, now, for online media, write it in 145 characters). It also taught me information gathering from multiple sources, processing it and summarizing it to make a complete news story. The profession also made me a good listener. Journalism also taught me to meet deadlines, time management, communication skills, punctuality, ethics, and attention to detail. And finally, it earned me the prestigious British Chevening Scholarship as a recognition of professionalism.

The evolving self-concept brought me to a second career in university teaching – a rewarding and satisfying career domain. The number one lesson from the second career is that teaching can make you a better learner! In addition to the love and respect of thousands of students, the decade-old career rewarded me with two prestigious awards – the Australian Leadership Award and The Ford Foundation Fellowship.

The new career – Student Success & Career Education, is an extension of university teaching. It goes beyond teaching one or two courses or classes; instead, I can reach out to more young minds and help them with their educational success and career preparation. These two segments (education and career) occupy a large portion of our lives. So, if anyone wants a happy and satisfying life, you must design it based on your personality, interests, skills and occupational themes. I can help them with psychometric assessments (Strong Interest), theories, models and other tools.

Naturally, it is gratifying and goes with my self-concept and calling. Moreover, it allows me to think about life from a biopsychological perspective. From the first interview to the execution of the strategy, it has a 7-step process: Intake interview » Strong assessment » Theorizing the perspectives » Apply models » Create self-marketing tools » Upgrade skills » Execute the plan.

The Strong Interest Inventory assessment identified me as SAE - Social (helpful, service-oriented), Artistic (self-expressive, idea-oriented), and Enterprising (persuasive, result-oriented). In Myers-Briggs, I am INTJ - introversion, intuitive, thinking, and judging. And according to the CliftonStrengths assessment, I am a learner, an activator, and strategic with connectedness and responsibility.

These are all indicative, but I can see myself in these assessments! I live an ethical life and try to stick to my reference point (do you have a reference point, or are you just driven by the social media glitz)?

Learning keeps me motivated. Success, to me, is "being able to do what I love to." I firmly believe that anyone can have a tailor-made life if they plan it early and stay motivated with resilience to achieve it! It's about Goal, Reality, Options and Will (GROW) or the WOOP (Wish-Outcome-Obstacle-Plan).

Developing a personal philosophy (for me, it's ethics) and staying healthy are equally essential to living a good life.

I am a habitual learner who is constantly upgrading my knowledge and skills with the hope that I will be able to apply to Career Education and Student Success Strategy.

As part of the continuous professional and self-development process, I completed Career Education Certificate and ATS Resume Development in 2022. I also completed Career & Academic Advising and e-Learning Certificates from the University of Calgary.

I also studied Perspective in Psychology at Ryerson University, the Theory and Practice of Academic Advising e-Tutorial with NACADA, and the Certified Career

Specialist program with the Career Professionals of Canada. I also completed the Strong Interest Inventory Certification from Psychometrics Canada and have Crisis Intervention training.

My teaching experience and skills honed from professional development programs provide me with the tools and confidence to support young people prepare for the constantly changing career sphere.

To keep up with the digital age, I also took technology training and can efficiently use over three dozen digital tools and web technologies.

I have a social science MA (concentration in Journalism) from Cardiff University, UK, and 14+ years of University teaching experience.

My professional awards and achievements include the British Chevening Scholarship, Australian Leadership Award, and Ford Foundation Fellowship. I am a member of the Career Professionals of Canada and Chevening Connects.

I currently work as the Student Success & Career Educator/Executive Consultant at the Toronto-based EduFirst Education Consultants. However, I am looking for new opportunities to serve more students, institutions, and clients.