

April 2008, Monthly *INSIGHT*

In the news:

I will be leading a series of workshops with colleagues from CareerWorks with management and staff at St. Peter's Health System in Hamilton. This long term care and residential centre is using the skills of Listening, Questioning and Delivering Recognition to help shift the culture to one of relationship-centered care and management. The workshops mark the last of four phases related to individual and team leadership for management team as well as online training in tandem with application funshops for the 200+ frontline healthcare workers.

Artful Work

"The artist is nothing without the gift, but the gift is nothing without work." George Bernard Shaw

From time-to-time I read a book that really resonates for me. During a recent vacation I had the good fortune to read Artful Work by Dick Richards. This book is all about bringing passion and commitment to ourselves and our workplace. The book "Is to stimulate courageous and hopeful aspects of ourselves which seek to make our work lives more joyful, truthful and productive"



Artful Work centres on shifting our perspective of work from a necessary evil to one of art. Richards believes that each of us is an artist and every activity is a special art. Artful work helps us draw together two estranged entities - art and science. Art concerns our emotion, spirit and soul. Science involves technique and rational inquiry (a model that parallels right brain thinking as creative and left brain thinking as analytical). We humans have a tendency to distinguish between art and science with the science of work dominating. Richards points out that in our work and organizational lives we "immerse ourselves in science and forfeit that fulfillment that artfulness can bring."

The picture of Aruba's Aloe Man is a wonderful example of an individual that truly sees his work a colourful art!

"We have a chance to work artfully when we believe that what our work creates makes the world a better place." P. 35

Your call to action on Artful Work:

1. How much do you care about work itself?
2. How do you express yourself through work?
3. What three things can you do to become an artist at work?

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