

Managing Your Career in the era of unanticipated CHANGE

Hello Wake Tech! Charles Darwin once said, “It’s not the strongest species that survives, but it’s the species, that is most adaptable to change!” My message for you today is this. During the midst of this crises that we are dealing with today, the one thing that is certain in life, the one thing that is Inevitable in life is CHANGE! Change is the one constant that you can count on during this new normal of certain uncertainty. When I was preparing this podcast, I was reminded about a speaker I heard speak a few months ago named Dr. James Johnson Jr. Dr. Johnson, who is with the UNC Kenan-Flager Business School, was speaking to a group of students at a local HBCU about being prepared for the 21 Century workforce. And as a current, former, or prospective Wake Tech student, I think Dr. Johnson’s words have some great implications for you and your Career Development in this era of new normal. According to Dr. Johnson, we are on the brink of a New Normal that I characterize as certain uncertainty. The only thing we are certain that we are going to have to face in the future is CHANGE! And it is coming at breakneck speed! So the question becomes, what do you need to have in your Career tool kit to be able to thrive and prosper in our global economy of the new normal of certain uncertainty? Employers tell us that they want workers who can successfully operate on Ambiguity, because that is the nature of the landscape that we are facing. People who can peer through the fog of certain uncertainty, Identify the opportunities to be taken advantage of, and be able to avoid the potential landmines in the market place. So they can continue to create shareholder value and a greater Return on Investment. You need to have impeccable SOFT SKILLS. You need to have the ability to move from the streets to the suites without missing a beat. You need contextual intelligence, to be able to read the tea leaves out there and be able to anticipate unanticipated change, and be able to take advantage of it. And so, you need a lifelong learning mindset. As well as the agility, and the flexibility to constantly reinvent yourself and the ability to pivot at a drop of a dime. And, Wake Tech students, you need to be built to last. You need to be built to thrive, built to compete, and built to prosper in this new normal of certain uncertainty! I believe that Dr. Johnson’s words also gives us some good advice on how we can help you equip your Career Tool Kits as educators, as you prepare for this new normal of certain uncertainty. I know what some of you are thinking. You are thinking, Larry, “what can I specifically do to prepare myself for this new era of certain uncertainty? What can I do to prepare for the Unknown, otherwise known as CHANGE? What I say to you is this is, embrace it, embrace it! Yes change is coming! It’s the new normal... embrace it! But, the good news is you don’t have to face it alone! So, If you are a prospective student, and maybe you’ve recently loss your job, and thinking about earning a new industry certification, diploma, or degree to enhance your chances of getting back into the workforce. Or, maybe even thinking about making a career change, and wondering “what is my next step?” You are not alone! One of our Career Coaches can help you figure it out. Or, maybe you are a current student, or an alumni, and you were recently laid off, let go, or the company you worked for has shut down, and you need help finding employment. You are not alone! One of our Career Specialist are here to help you update your Resume, or advise you on how to grow and leverage your signature strengths, and your personal & professional Network, and help you formulate a winning job search strategy. Wake Tech’s Career & Employment Resources has partnered with local area businesses, to identify what employers are looking for in new applicants as we prepare students for employment in the changing workplace. On our website, Wake Tech’s Career & Employment Resources has a number of services that we have altered for you, so you can take advantage of our resources from the convenience of your home. Our Career Development Coaches and our Career Specialist are here for you, to help you prepare for this new normal. We are just a CLICK away. Contact us at careers.waketech.edu. That is careers.waketech.edu for

an online, one-on-one, Virtual Career Coaching Session. We are waiting to hear from you! Charles Darwin was right. It's not the strongest species that survives, but it's the species, that is most adaptable to change. So let Career & Employment Resources help you embrace, and prepare for this new normal called CHANGE! Have a Great Day... and stay Safe!