

Denise Bissonnette



Denise Bissonnette is an internationally renowned writer, trainer and keynote speaker. For over two decades, she has inspired people and organizations throughout North America to look beyond traditional concepts of career development and to craft livelihoods rooted in the individual "genius" of each person. Her work is a rich tapestry of her talents as a poet, writer, storyteller, teacher and career developer.

BACKGROUND

After completing her Masters Degree in Multicultural Education at the University of San Francisco, Denise began to work in ESL programs. Her early literacy work with political refugees drew her to the difficulties that they faced in trying to establish themselves in American workplace. In response, she made a career change and became a Job Developer – working with employers to secure jobs for people from groups that were not traditionally part of the workforce.

Her extraordinary success as a job developer led to requests for her to share her expertise with other practitioners and organizations. Soon, as a partner in the firm of Milt Wright & Associates, Denise was in demand throughout North America - delivering seminars to Job Developers and Employment Specialists throughout the Employment and Training field.

Denise's job search curriculum, ***Pathways***, became a cornerstone for the placement services of many social service agencies and educational systems. Her book ***Beyond Traditional Job Development*** stands as the definitive text for job development professionals throughout the continent. Denise's early program ***Crossroads*** and the later ***Cultivating the Spirit to Work*** respond to the "motivational" issues encountered in clients of placement services. Her revolutionary concept of "activity-based placement" led to the development of the comprehensive ***Cultivating True Livelihood*** curriculum. Denise's new ***30 Ways to Shine as a New Employee*** is a proactive response to emerging job retention issues.

Concurrent to her work in the arena of Human Services, Denise has worked closely with the corporate sector. Companies like Oracle, EDS, Hyatt Hotels and the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) have drawn on her expertise to enhance their Workforce Diversity efforts.

In recent years, Denise has also been called upon to design training programs and manuals to enable companies to effectively engage the talents of employees emerging from welfare-to-work initiatives. These are primarily tools for Managers and Supervisors to skilfully deal with the diverse backgrounds and experiences that these individuals are

bringing to the workplace. **Developing the New Employee** (training curriculum) and **Helping the New Employee Succeed** (supervisor handbook) are exciting products that have emerged from this work.

Denise's work has always been underpinned by her sincere respect for the work done by attendees at her training sessions – from job developers through to corporate executives. She has not only given them the tools to more effectively open opportunities for the people that they serve; but she has affirmed the value of their own work. She has encouraged them to express their own gifts, passion and purpose to their work lives. Her newest book **The Wholehearted Journey: Bringing Qualities of Soul to Life and Work**, is an engaging call to us all to use our work to find purpose, integrity and celebration in our lives.

HUMAN SPIRIT

Denise unapologetically frames her work with respect for the human spirit. She unabashedly asserts the worth of each human being - and the right that each of us has to a livelihood that draws on our best qualities, stirs our truest passions, and brings us joy.

In a world where the worth and value of individual workers seems lost in the quest for corporate profits and organizational efficiencies, Denise causes all of us to pause and to re-examine the “human” side of the equation – and how our individual actions can enhance or diminish the life experience of others and ourselves.

WORLD OF WORK

Educators, parents, job developers, career counselors, human resources professionals, managers and supervisors... wherever “work” is a concern, Denise has a compelling and inspiring message to offer. At whatever stage in the journey of livelihood, her concepts, perspectives and strategies revitalize her audiences and equip them for new adventures.

INCLUSION

Denise is especially passionate about her work as it applies to individuals with “employment barriers” and for those who work on their behalf.

From people with disabilities to migrant workers, from women re-entering the workforce to dislocated workers, from individuals leaving public assistance to new immigrants... Denise's work is about the potential that lies within each of us, our own originality and unique gifts – and how to develop livelihoods that embrace and affirm them.

About Denise Bissonnette

She ardently affirms an economy and workplaces that are inclusive of all – and that proactively give every individual their opportunity to “shine”.

STYLE

Denise’s work, written and spoken, is illustrated with practical, real-life anecdotes. It is adorned with poetry, prose and quotations from both time-honoured sages and contemporary prophets. It is all delivered with Denise’s unbridled enthusiasm and contagious passion.

Known for her innovative hands-on techniques and creative approaches, Denise creates an open, dynamic and enjoyable learning environment. She inspires her audiences with visions of new possibilities, motivates them to commit to new strategies, and empowers them with practical tools for their journeys.