

Are You Making Something Better?

by Bob Roth

The "College & Career Success" Coach

You and every other college student have the opportunity and obligation to make something better for those around you. All you have to do is think about your passions, your strengths and the needs of others. Those three areas will all offer a variety of opportunities for you to easily make some valuable contributions, things that will make something better.

Your contribution doesn't have to be a very big. In fact, you can purposely start small. However, what the contribution may be and how big it should be is entirely up to you. You don't have to invent anything or build something. You simply have to try to make a positive difference in someone else's life.

For some students, making something better may mean volunteering to help other people, supporting an organization or campaigning for a cause. Your contribution can be as simple as shopping for supplies, making phone calls, running errands, offering encouragement, planting a tree, visiting someone in the hospital, working at a food pantry, giving blood, picking up trash, writing a letter to the editor or teaching a child how to play a game. The fact is, you can improve things wherever you are: at home, on campus, at work, in the local community and beyond.

Doing good and making something better is the silent calling of every contributing member of society. Knowing that not everyone will be successful, we are still obligated to try. For only those who have frequently come up short can truly appreciate the happiness of a small success.

While you are in college, look around. Think about the things that have been bothering you. Why not fix something or fill an unmet need? Look for opportunities where you can leave your mark. If you would like to change something and make it better, there are several ways in which you can do that.

Act Alone - Many positive activities can be performed by an individual. College is a great time to speak up or take action, in an effort to make something better.

Follow - Join a group, club or organization. Groups usually have more power than individuals. Therefore, groups often take on larger challenges.

Lead - For more complex challenges, someone has to lead. There will be times when that leader is you. If you choose, you can enlist the help of experts and friends or create a team of dedicated people to tackle an issue that is important to you.

Support - You can show your support for another leader verbally, by taking supportive action, by providing financial support and giving of your time.

Influence - Your powers to persuade and motivate other people to act or support a worthwhile cause can help to ensure success.

As students become young adults, they tend to be a bit idealistic. That's good! It takes an unusual amount of passion, idealism and energy to get something done, when everybody else is telling you that it can't be done or shouldn't be done.

And so, the challenge exists to not only do the ordinary things that are expected of you, but to do some extraordinary things that need to be done, the things you believe in and are important to you. In the end, those are the things that matter the most. That's why I ask: Are you making something better?

Visit Bob's web site: www.The4Realities.com. Bob Roth is the author of *The 4 Realities Of Success During and After College* -and- *The College Student's Guide To Landing A Great Job*. *The College Parent's Guide To Student Success* will be available in 2010.