NAVIGATING THE SUPPLY CHAIN CAREER SUCCESS MAZE: THE INSIDE STORY

4th Annual Black Executive Supply
Management Summit – Nashville, TN
March 8, 2007
Alvin J. Williams, Editor
JOURNAL OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

COMPREHENSIVE SELF-ANALYSIS – 'KNOW THYSELF'

- Personal Goals
- Professional Goals
- Personal/Professional SWOT Analysis
- Personal/Professional Strategic Planning
- Guiding Question: How do I add value consistently in a dynamic and competitive marketplace throughout my career cycle?

A MARKETING APPROACH TO SUPPLY CHAIN CAREER SUCCESS

- PRODUCT Questions
 - What composite skill sets are you offering?
 - How can my skill sets enhance the organization's capacity to grow market share, ROI, and stakeholder satisfaction?
 - What makes my skill sets distinctive?
 - Am I leveraging my skill sets appropriately?

3

A MARKETING APPROACH

- Branding yourself
- Positioning yourself relative to competitors, both direct and indirect
- Market segmentation and career management success matching skill sets with 'marketing' opportunities

A MARKETING APPROACH TO CAREER MANAGEMENT

- PROMOTION Questions
 - How do I communicate my value/worth to the appropriate decision-makers/influencers and deciders?
 - Do I really understand the 'language' of significant others in corporate America?
 - How do I develop personal communications strategies?

5

A MARKETING APPROACH TO CAREER MANAGEMENT

- PRICING Questions
 - How has my marketplace value changed over time? Develop a 'worth' trend line. Compare with other SCM professionals.
 - What are the perceptions of others of my worth/value to the organization?

A MARKETING APPROACH TO CAREER MANAGMENT

- PLACE Questions
 - Timing of career decisions
 - Location and career choices
 - Mobility issues domestically / globally

7

Product/Market Expansion Grid – SCM Career Implications

	Existing Products	New Products
Existing		Product
Markets	Market Pentration	Development
	Market	
New Markets	Development	Diversification

MARKET GROWTH MATRIX APPROACH TO SCM CAREER NAVIGATION

- MARKET PENETRATION continuing in the same basic functional / disciplinary areas for an extended time period.
- Builds depth in particular areas. Sharpens expertise.
- You become the 'go to' person for certain definitive skill sets.

9

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

- MARKET DEVELOPMENT involves the application of SCM skill sets to different or related functions.
- This builds cross-disciplinary expertise.
- Adds both depth and breadth of knowledge.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

- PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT developing new and different skill sets for traditional SCM roles.
- This is likely to be perceived as innovative and somewhat leading-edge behavior.
- This 'brands' you as someone willing to try non-traditional approaches to solve traditional SCM issues.

11

DIVERSIFICATION

- DIVERSIFICATION developing totally new skill sets for totally new positions moving from marketing to engineering or from SCM to finance.
- This can be a risky strategy if one is perceived as having insufficient depth and substance in the new position.

FACILITATIVE SUGGESTIONS FOR SCM CAREER SUCCESS

- Consider your SCM career as a 'marketing document.' Take a marketing perspective when assessing yourself. What is the product? How do I best communicate it? Do I add value?
- Is my personal brand well-positioned in the SCM career marketplace? What adjustments are required for sustained success?

13

CRITICAL SCM CAREER SUCCESS FACTORS

- Conspicuous depth/breadth of SCM-specific knowledge (be an expert)
- Learning orientation (continuous improvement)
- Calculated risk taker (driven by precise goals)
- Entrepreneurial in nature

CRITICAL SCM CAREER SUCCESS FACTORS

- Impeccable people skills
- A 'can do' orientation
- Confidence / self-assurance
- Political astuteness

15

CRITICAL SCM CAREER SUCCESS FACTORS

- Market 'sensing' capabilities
- Management of the mentoring relationship
- Consummate professionalism
- Adroit networking capacity

CRITICAL SCM CAREER SUCCESS FACTORS

■ HAVE FUN ALONG THE JOURNEY!

17

THE END

- QUESTIONS?
- THOUGHTS?
- OBSERVATIONS?