



PROMOTING SUCCESS BY NURTURING HUMAN POTENTIAL

It is my pleasure to provide a recommendation for Lee Ann Szelog, not only because I had the privilege of working with her for nine years, but because of the special person that she is. *I know of no one (no one!) who displays a more consistent and contagious positive energy and attitude, and because of her passion, she “lights up the stage” in front of audiences of all kinds!*

I first came to know Lee in May of 1999, when I joined Camden National Corporation and she, as the Marketing Manager, became one of my direct reports. Lee continued to work in my division for the entire 9 years that I worked for the Company, and she was one of my most valued resources.

While Lee excelled in Marketing and received many accolades for her work (including a national award for the 2000 Annual Report!), she developed a passion for education and development, in part through the product knowledge and sales training that she delivered in Marketing. In November of 2002 she had the opportunity to move into the bank’s Education and Development Department as the Manager, and was selected to become a facilitator for The Customer Program®, an employee development course that transformed our Company. Over the next 6 years, Lee discovered that helping others achieve their potential was not only a passion, but a true “calling.” She enhanced the effectiveness of the Department and, by aligning her goals to the Company’s strategic initiatives, tripled the offerings and the positive impact the Department had on our success. *In recognition of her efforts and contributions at Camden National, she was named a Vice President of the Company in 2004, and in 2005, by unanimous vote of the executive management team, received our most prestigious award – Officer of the Year!*

You can tell from the accolades and the awards that Lee has become an accomplished facilitator and educator, and she now has the opportunity to help many other businesses in Maine and beyond maximize the potential of their human resources; research indicates that a dollar invested in training and education returns itself seven times over in positive impact to the bottom line!

I would like to end with a story about a “speech” that Lee gave to our in-house Toastmaster’s Club. The goal of the speech was to inspire the audience, and Lee – quite literally – took us on a roller coaster ride. She described in detail her favorite amusement park, Kennywood, and the old wooden roller coaster that she loved as a child. Then she and a volunteer member of the audience entered the roller coaster (chairs that she had set up in advance in the front of the room), and they literally rode the coaster, with all of the ups and downs, exclamations, and thrills. It was not only inspiring but exhilarating, all accomplished through engaging the “minds” of the audience. The experience Lee created positively impacted the members of the audience for some time to come.

I would be happy to speak with anyone, anytime, about Lee and how she can be of benefit to your company or organization; please contact me at 207-563-1128 or laurie@lbouchardllc.com.

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