

Goal Setting: The Keyne Way

Here's an outline for setting employee and organizational objectives that can have a powerful impact on growth



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By Bruce Hodes

The goal of this article is to tell you all about goals. Goals are where the rubber meets the road. Goals create high-performance organizations. Goals create accountability. Goals have clear measurable results with a target date.

A side note: much of the philosophy of this article is taken from the Keyne Method, which was created by recovering strategic planning consultants Wayne and Kelly Nelson. They are also the developers of KeyneLink; a cutting-edge execution-management system used by companies worldwide.

The Keyne Method categorizes goals into four types: individual, departmental, developmental and team. Let's look at each of these in more detail in the shaded box below.

Developmental goals are really positive; knowledgeable employees are more valuable to the company and better suited to drive corporate initiatives forward. All of our clients mandate that every employee, including the CEO, have at least one developmental goal every year. My company also does this. As a side note, developmental goals are not "I am going to be my best," "I will have a positive attitude," or "I will smile



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Individual Productivity Goals

- Represent how each individual will be involved in meeting the corporate initiatives
- Are totally within your power; nobody else is involved

Example: An individual sales goal

Department/Management Goals

- The department's or group's contribution to a corporate initiative
- The manager's productivity goals for the department

Example, keeping the sales motif in mind: the sales department will attain \$10 million in new sales revenue for 2014

Professional Development Goals

- Goals that advance an employee in his or her professional development
- May be related to leadership skills, technical skills, specific job-related skills, or the like.

Examples: graduating with an MBA by 2014, completing a course/seminar by 2014, attending a conference, etc.

more.” Nor is this the section where you say I will live the corporate values.

TEAM GOALS

- Goals that require more than one person to be accomplished
- Can have members across departments, divisions, and/or levels of an organization.
- Consist of team sponsors, leads and members.

Tension often exists between setting realistic and “stretch” goals. The Keyne Method creates a breakthrough solution for this issue; when outlining goals, define the criteria for meeting, exceeding and missing the goal. The exceeded criterion allows you to create a realistic stretch goal. Almost everyone likes to produce results beyond their set goals. I noticed that my clients who follow this process focus on exceeding the goals. This method also forces you to really think about your goal. It is such a simple concept. It works quite elegantly. Of course each target of meeting, exceeding and missing goals needs to be quantifiable.

We encourage our clients to set goals in partnership with their managers. Employees that set goals with their managers really create alignment. It allows employees to define what they are actually committing to and allows managers to understand and agree to those commitments. I love this aspect; it is very powerful and positive.

As I said previously, all goals should have clear measurable results with a target date. Target dates ensure the achievement of goals. Can you imagine a goal that said Company X will attain \$250 million net profit by whenever? Can you imagine the power of this? NOT! Compare that to saying Company X will attain \$250 million net profit within six months. Now that creates a game to play and a completely different outcome.

Another aspect of this goal-setting process encompasses flexibility. We all know that we live in tumultuous business times, and things change on an hourly, daily and weekly basis. If circumstances change and you accomplish your goal early... no problem, your manager will score your goal and then you will set new ones. The flexibility of staying on top of your goals and keeping them always up to date through software is quite appealing and powerful.

PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF

Goals can move the company forward into new territory. How? The Keyne Method suggests creating goals linked to corporate initiatives; this process ensures implementation and support for the initiatives. Linking goals to corporate initiatives requires employees and departments to define the piece of the initiatives for which they will accept personal accountability. God I do love saying that...linking to the corporate initiatives. The linking part gets to me because it is all so emotional.

Before I leave goals and move on—a word of caution. Goals can confront people. For some employees and even managers, having and setting goals is a fearful and risky exercise. Recently with my water treatment and

chemical company client, I watched many key employees struggle with the concept of goals. They didn't understand goals. When asked to define goals, they would name activities, they fought the process of defining clear measurable results for fear of being held accountable. If you confront this issue, have compassion and stick with this process. Over time, the stragglers will start to understand and design better goals. Hang in there. This goal-setting process is powerful, useful and will also support you in having a productive and performance-oriented organization. It is also very Keyne. Goals for 2014 on! TS

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