Women in Leadership: Laura Fiffick

NSC Women’s Division
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Agenda

• Career Pathway
• Top 3 Lessons Learned
• Differentiators
• Growth opportunities in EHS
Career Dream

1990 – International Career in Oil and Gas

2020 - Global Director of Environmental, Health Safety and Security in Agriculture and Chemicals
Environmental Consulting
Hydrogeologist

Port of Houston Authority
EHS Manager

“If you get your masters in safety, we’ll give you the safety program…”
City of Dallas
Environmental (and Sustainability) Director

$3.5 Million Settlement with City of Dallas Requires Increased City Effort to Keep Stormwater Sewers Clean

Release Date: 05/10/2006
Contact Information: Dave Bary, 214–665–2200

(Dallas, Texas -- May 10, 2006) The City of Dallas has agreed to a settlement with the state of Texas requiring the City to spend in excess of $3 million to improve its stormwater system, which is crucial to keeping the city's sewers clean.

Don Henley To Join Dallas Mayor In Fight For Cleaner Power

Eagles Band Recording Artist To Speak Before Mount Vernon City Council To Advocate For More Modern, Cleaner Technology For TXU's Proposed Coal Plant Expansion

WHAT: Mount Vernon City Council Meeting
WHEN: Tuesday, December 12th at 6:30 P.M.
WHERE: Mount Vernon City Hall
109 North Kaufman St., Mount Vernon, TX 75457

Consulting Firm
EHS & Sustainability Sales

Baseline Inventory of Greenhouse Gas Emissions for the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

February 2006
Prepared By Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County Health Department

Wilbur-Ellis

Cavallero Ventures
National Safety Council/Campbell Institute

BNSF Railway – Environmental Director
1. Take a chance

What’s the Worse Thing That Can Happen When….

- Introducing yourself to the CEO
- Submitting a resume
- Asking for an introduction
- Volunteering for a project
- Asking to be invited to a meeting
- Asking to job shadow
2. Find a mentor

- Ask if your company has a **formal** mentor program - be prepared to sell yourself.
- **Find one on your own**; ask someone you admire to give you honest feedback on conference calls/meetings.
- Ask your mentor to help you build a **development plan**.
- Connect with an EHS professional outside your organization.
3. Prepare for Difficult Situations

- Have “back pocket” responses – it is not if it is **when**.
- Say something in the moment – most of the time the person doesn’t realize they are being offensive.
- Know when to stand your ground versus when to let it go.
- Never put yourself at risk.
“Back Pocket” Ideas

Options to pause a conversation
• Help me understand….
• Can you tell me more….
• What I’m telling myself...

Options to stop a conversation
• Let’s take a break…
• I would feel more comfortable if we stopped and engaged our supervisors…
• This conversation needs to stop…
Differentiators

• Volunteer for programs outside your scope
• Partner to learn the business – Go out into the field
• Be prepared for meetings – Come to the meeting with at least one question
• Never guess on regulatory advice – I don’t know but I’ll find out
• Be a great listener
• Be an EHS leader; walk the talk
EHS Field - Growth

- Network, network, network
- Identify company/industry that is of interest to you – seek opportunities to gain experience and contacts
- Expand out expertise across E, H and S – regulatory and data
- Risk and culture focus
- Ability to present and engage across multiple levels of the organization

Recognize we learn more from failure and bad situations
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Thank you!
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