



The ENGINEERING CAREER COACH PODCAST SESSION # 2 Getting on the Path to Your Dream engineering Job

Show notes at: engineeringcareercoach.com/session2

Anthony's Upfront Intro: This is *The Engineering Career Coach Podcast with Anthony Fasano Session # 2*. Today I'm going to help a younger engineer get on his path to his dream job and hopefully help you do the same in the process. Let's do it!

Episode Intro: Welcome to the *Engineering Career Coach Podcast* where it's all about helping real engineers to overcome real challenges and get real results. And now for your host, who is on a mission to inspire as many engineers as possible, professional engineer and certified career coach Anthony Fasano.

Hello everyone, this is Anthony Fasano, your engineering career coach and I welcome you to **Session #2 of the Engineering Career Coach Podcast**. And today I'm going to help a younger engineer to get on the path to his dream job. And this is a topic that I love, that I'm passionate about. I want to inspire as many engineers as possible to have a dream career, their dream career, and that's why I'm really excited for today's show.

My whole philosophy - and I'll say it a couple times through the show - is that if you're going to work in your career for twenty, thirty, forty, fifty years, it better be absolutely something that you're passionate about and that you absolutely love. And that's what we're going to get our younger engineer - who is going to join us in a few minutes - to get him on the track to do then and hopefully in the process thousands of engineers out there listening to the show. And I want to say before we get into our quote - I usually start the show with a quote - which I'll do in a moment, and then we have a coaching session and at the end of the show I will give you a career changing tip, every show because I believe you're taking the time to listen to my podcast, which I very much appreciate -- I want to make it career and life changing for you!

So, the career-changing tip today will change your career and will change your life. It will give you an 'aha moment' if you follow the advice at the end of the show so please hang with us for that. And also, I want to let everyone know out there, you can get to our website engineeringcareercoach.com, click on the podcast tab and get all of our shows, our show notes. Also, if you click on free gift, you can put your e-mail address in and I will send you the three top resources that I used to become a partner in a reputable engineering firm at the age of twenty-seven. I'll give you each resource and a description of it. So please take advantage of that.



Right, so with that, let's jump right into our motivational moment and I'll give you the quote that I've selected for today's show.

Anthony's Motivational Moment:

The quote that I've chosen for today's show is from the late, great Steve Jobs. And the quote goes like this, ***"The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart you'll know when you find it."***

I think that's a very powerful quote and I think it fits perfect for today with our coaching session, with our topic of trying to find your dream job, trying to achieve passion in your career, passion on a daily basis. And Steve Jobs was someone that we can all look up to for that and he said it the best there in that quote.

I've worked with hundreds of engineers in the last few years and if there's one thing I can tell all of you out there is that you've got to find your passion in your engineering career. Whatever you end up doing, whether it's design engineering, whether you're in the field, whether you end up not even doing engineering. You have to find what you love and that's what I hope to help thousands of engineers do through this podcast and will continue to do it one engineer at a time or to the groups through the audio, through the website, through everything else. I believe that we can all achieve an extraordinary engineering career if we develop our skills, set clear goals and then achieve them.

So with that let's jump to our coaching session and then hang around with us for our career-changing tip at the end of the show.

Coaching Segment:

Anthony: Alright, now for our coaching portion of the show. And today's guest is David from Florida. David is almost finished with a five-year dual program in mechanical and aerospace engineering. He's in Florida and his application was interesting to me; his challenge was, or his goal was to seek a dream job within a dream company. And that kind of really struck a chord for me because one of the things that I focus on through my ***Institute for Engineering Career Development*** with all of our members is trying to help them to achieve their dream jobs as engineers. I mean my whole philosophy on your career is you're going to go through this career for how many years in your life, you want to make sure that you're doing what you love to do in this - quote unquote - dream job as much as possible.

So while David is a student and we're talking about for him, early in his career. Those of you out there at any age, I think you'll be able to take something out of this as far as how do you get that dream job and I'm going to talk about that a lot here as we get into it with David so, welcome in David, how are you doing here?

David: I'm doing great, how are you doing?

Anthony: Great, it's good to have you on the show.

David: Thank you very much for having me.

Anthony: I appreciate the application and this is a very interesting topic to me. So David, why don't you go into this a little bit more and elaborate on it for the listeners and for me so I can understand really what you're looking to accomplish here?

David: Sure, okay so for a few years now I had a dream job in the private space sector. I landed my first internship there last fall and I just completed another internship in the summer. I've been recommended for full-time in my current department, but the current department is more of a production role. It's not really along the lines of what I've been practicing in school or really along the lines of what the kind of experience that I want. But that being said, I did love the job, I loved going to work every day and it was still a very enticing offer. That being said, I do want to move into a more mechanical minded, hands-on, technical role and I'm wondering what are the first steps I can do to get there.

Anthony: Okay, alright, let's back up for a minute now and you said you had your dream job. When you say dream job, how do you define that?

David: For now, coming out of college, I want to get, my idea of a dream job is getting the kind of experience I want at a company that I'm really passionate about, in an industry that I'm very passionate about, that will kind of make me an all-around engineer. So, it will complete what I want experience-wise to make sure that I'm the most adequate leader a little later on down the line.

Anthony: Okay, great. So what you're looking to do is, you're looking to get a job in a field that you're passionate about, with a company that is kind of in alignment with yourself, your goals. You'd like the company obviously in the industry that you want.

David: Exactly.

Anthony: And it's got to be a position too that offers some long-term growth with skill building and leadership building, etcetera.

David: Correct.

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Anthony: Alright, so take me now a little bit into again, this idea of your specific situation with you're in a role in production and you want to be in what other role now? Explain this to me.

David: So, in my role in production I've been doing more industrial engineering and process engineering stuff, but I want to be in a more mechanical role where I'm doing some analysis of components, maybe doing some sort of building of actual parts and manufacturing, really hands-on technical stuff where I'm using all the fundamental skills I've been learning in my mechanical and aerospace courses.

Anthony: Okay, so you want to get a lot of that technical experience early on.

David: Exactly.

Anthony: Okay, which is great, which is definitely the way to do it. So now your dilemma is if you wanted to, when you graduate, you could walk right into this production role.

David: Correct.

Anthony: But now you want to get into this technical role at the same company.

David: Correct, yes.

Anthony: Now how is your relationship with this company you've worked there for what, a couple summers?

David: Yes, so I worked there for eight months total. And my relationship with my manager is absolutely great. I've actually already talked to him about this and he's backing me up. I'm going to work with him and the HR department to try to set up some interviews in other places within the company that would more fit my style, so I like that. I'm really getting the support there for sure. The big thing is I'm not exactly sure how qualified I am for the more technical places because I've been working in production pretty much for all my internship experiences.

Anthony: Alright, so one of the challenges here is that you, like I'm sure a lot of students that are coming out of school right now that haven't been able to get internships in a certain field. However, you've kind of identified that mechanical technical field as a way to get you going on your dream career path.

David: Correct.

Anthony: Right, and now you worried about getting that because you don't have the experience in that field. Okay, so the good thing here, and the very positive thing for you that a lot of other recent grads probably can't say, is that you did have internship experience and you have it with this company specifically. And you obviously have a great relationship with them. So that's one of the things that you're going to obviously leverage and lean on here in the situation. What I would tell you to do is - this is for everyone out there who tries to get a job you don't necessarily have experience in that field - is you have to try to think about what you do have that's related to that field or that might be helpful for you in that field, alright.

So if I was in your position, David I would sit down with my supervisor and say, listen -- I'd make a list first before I sat down with him and list out everything that you've accomplished or that you've worked on in the last few summers with this company and I would also list out different things you've done at school like senior projects or different kinds of projects and different kind of things that you've learned. And then I would say to the supervisor based on his knowledge, what of these skills do you think will be applicable in the mechanical, the technical side of this job and try to come up with a few of them. And then I would take those skills and I would, when you, if you have an interview with the mechanical part of the company or the mechanical division or the HR department, and I would try to bring those skills to the forefront and not so much focus on the production that you've done but focused on what you've learned through the production that's going to apply to the mechanical side of things. Does that make sense to you?

David: Yes, yes it does. Absolutely.

Anthony: Alright, and that goes for anyone out there listening. I know there's a lot of recent graduates that have said, 'Oh, I haven't been able to get an internship in college so how do I go to a company and get that out there?' And the way you do that is you try to package yourself and show the value that you can bring to that industry, even though you haven't been in that industry specifically. And David has a little bit of a leg up here because he has a contact, he's in the company already so he's got a big leg up. But that's one of the main things that I think you should try to do David. And that's something that listen, if it doesn't work out at this company with the mechanical side of it then you still want to go down that road with another company.

David: Yes.

Anthony: It's the same approach, you take the experience and you can, you try to translate that into their world.

David: Okay.

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Anthony: Alright, so that's kind of in your specific situation. But you also had another question that you had in your application about working for a company with goals. Talk to me about that a little bit.

David: I'm coming out of a college and I really did enjoy my day-to-day job at this company. It wasn't exactly the role that I would ideally want, but I still loved going to work everyday, I still had the time of my life. I still really enjoy where company's going and what they're doing. But is it better to accept a job where I'm not getting my ideal experience, but I'm still loving the day to day and I'm happy with the mission of the company or is it better to try to look elsewhere for the kind of experience that I want at a place where maybe I'm not as passionate about?

Anthony: Alright so this is a great question, and this is where we really get into the whole discussion of your dream job and what you sacrifice for it and how much you go after it. And again this is where I think this will apply for everyone here listening. So David asked a question that 's the million dollar question is, 'Should I chase my dream job at all costs, do what's passionate for me all the time at the expense of some other things like maybe working in a role that's not exactly what I want to do or maybe working for a company that's not exactly where I want to be but it's giving me exactly what I want to do?'

What this goes back to really is your goals, and David defined pretty well what he wants to do. He considers a dream company to be, or dream job to be a job in where he's doing what he loves to do, in a company where he loves to do it, loves to work there, in the right industry. And David, what you have to think about when you get into this situation is, if you want to have a dream job you should have your goals clear and you should have a plan for achieving them and you're off to a great start. If you understand what a dream career is for you and you've taken steps already; you've got into a company that is a top-of-the-line company that you love to work for alright. It's in the right industry. So now, your third thing is the specific role that you're in and so if I was in your position what I would do is, I would say to myself, listen, I've got two out of three going for me right now, right. What are the chances that I'm going to be able to get the third one in this company, okay?

David: Okay.

Anthony: Is it going to take me, listen it could take me six months, it could take me year, it could take two months. I don't know. However, I think I think from your perspective right now you have the one that could be hard to get done, which is working for a great company that you love to work for, you love to go to work everyday.

David: Right.

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Anthony: And they have the capability of giving you that ideal job that you want, they have it there, you just haven't gotten the job there yet.

David: Correct.

Anthony: So if I'm in your shoes I'm doing everything I can to try to get the position in this company, right?

David: Correct.

Anthony: And I think obviously you're going to be doing that.

David: Yes.

Anthony: Now let's just go down the road of saying that doesn't happen for whatever reason, alright. Now you have a bigger decision to make and that is, do I leave this great company that I love to take a job that's more specific to what I would consider my dream job. Of course, at the expense of then losing alignment with the other thing which is the company.

David: Right.

Anthony: And it's a hard question to answer. What I always recommend to people is, you've got to do what you're passionate about in your engineering career, you've got to do what you love or else it's not going to be fulfilling, as fulfilling for you as it will be. Alright so let's just say it didn't work out, this company you didn't get the mechanical job and you stayed in the production role, David from my estimation from my working with a lot of engineers...

David: Yes.

Anthony: At some point in the future, you're going to hit a wall with that position and you're going to say, you know what as much as I love this company, I just don't feel, this just doesn't feel right to me, because this is not what I consider my dream job, this is not what I really want to pursue. You know what I'm saying?

David: Yes, yes I do.

Anthony: So, my advice for you is whatever you hold in highest regard in your case it's this mechanical technical role because that's going to make me the best in my career and let me achieve my goals, that's what you have to go after, a hundred and fifty percent.

David: Okay.

Anthony: Alright?

David: Okay.

Anthony: And that's something that is not easy to do and especially in your position, especially in the economy today, a lot people with a job will just be happy to stay in it.

David: Yes.

Anthony: You know what I'm saying.

David: Yes, yes.

Anthony: Because it's a paycheck and it's comfortable and it's stable alright. And that's why I selected you to come on the show because you specifically identified as, my dream job and in my opinion, every engineer should be shooting for their dream job if not really working it for their whole career. Really, what's the point of having a career right if you can't do that?

David: Right, right.

Anthony: So I commend you for keeping that mindset from day one in your career and doing that, and there's one other question too that you had here too on your application that I wanted to tackle here. And you said, 'Is being a hard, relentless worker a substitute for technical experience when trying to compete with entry-level engineers who have been on competitive project teams their entire college careers?' So this brings us to another issue that I think is a good one to discuss here and that is when you're trying to get that dream job and you don't have the credentials to get it, what can you do to get it right?

David: Right.

Anthony: That's an important question because those of you out there, probably listening, and saying, 'Yeah well it's not that easy to just get your dream job whenever you want it,' and that's true to some degree, but what I believe, and this is something that we work on a lot again at the Institute, is you need to build your skills, your reputation, and to be able to get that dream job, to be able to attract any opportunity that you want in your career because you're set up for it. So for example, if you go to a

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company that has a mechanical production role and you don't have one, you might be able to say something like, like we talked about before, of course, you could bring in your other skill sets that you've learned but you could also say things like, 'I headed up the XYZ team at my school,' 'I'm a chair of the local ASME chapter for students,' 'I speak on a regular basis, I belong to a Toastmasters chapter and I do public speaking regularly,' right.

So all of a sudden the idea that you haven't had that technical experience, they can say, 'Alright let's think about this, this kid David, he's a young guy. He's twenty-two years old. He's got a dual degree and he hasn't exactly had this experience yet, but he's got so many other things going for him that we can obviously teach him this, but we want all the other stuff that comes along with it.'

David: Okay.

Anthony: You understand where I'm going with that?

David: Yes, yes I do.

Anthony: So what you're doing is you're setting yourself up to be able to land that dream job because you have prepared for it.

David: Okay.

Anthony: Alright. So what I want you to do, David is I want you to definitely try to get this job in the company you're with by doing the things we talked about, which is accentuating the skills that will be used in that department, but also what I want you to do on top of that is I want to step back for a second, say listen if my goal in my engineering career is to have a dream job all the time, my dream job, then I want you to look at your skill sets, look at your repertoire, so to speak, of all your skills and enhance it and say, 'Listen, if this is what I want to do, what's going to make me better at that or what's going to give me an edge in that industry over other engineers that have the same goal.'

David: Okay.

Anthony: Alright, it's about thinking outside the box. How do you feel about that David?

David: I feel good about it, I feel good about it. I think that I have a lot of past experiences that will definitely play well for me in a more mechanical role.

Anthony: Ok good. Alright David, do you have any other questions for me while we're finishing up our call here?

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David: No, I don't so. I think you pretty much got everything.

Anthony: Alright great. So again I want just to recap, the part about the dream job, which keeps coming out for me is - those of you out there you listened to me and David talk a little bit here today - if you're an engineer there is a dream job for you somewhere, and in order to find it you've got to be real clear on what it is, alright. And then you've got to put together a plan to go out and achievement it. And there may be times in your career where you're going to have to sacrifice and work a job that's not perfect, but as long as while you're doing that you're doing other things to enhance your repertoire, your resume, your experience so that when that dream job does become available it just falls into your lap, alright.

And that's really what I want David and I want everybody to take out of the podcast here today on this topic of your dream job and chasing your dream, alright. So once again, thanks, David. Thanks everyone for listening to this coaching session and I hope that this is going to really help you to find your engineering dream job.

David: Thank you very much Anthony I appreciate it.

Anthony's Career Changing Tip: Alright, now it's time for our career-changing tip, in this case I think it'll be career and life changing for you. The tip I want to give you today is; everyone one out there, ask yourself the question, 'Where do I want to be in my career or my life in two years, five years, ten years?' Whatever is a comfortable time range for you. Alright, I want you to ask yourself that question. Think about it for a minute. Now I want you to ask the important question, you ready for this? 'Why do I want to be there?' Ask yourself the question, why you want to be a partner in engineering firm, why you want to work on a construction site, why you want to be a mechanical engineer, why you want to work in California, why?

When you ask yourself why you get to the bottom and the meaning of what you really want to do, that's your real goal right. So if someone said to me I want to be a partner in an engineering firm and I say to them why? And they say, 'Well I like to lead people, I want to lead engineering groups, I want to lead projects now give me opportunity to do that. I want to be able to support my family and I think that that'll also give me the opportunity to do that.' So the bottom line is, you want to be a leader and you want to support your family. You don't have to be a partner in an engineering firm, you've chosen that vehicle to get you there alright. And that's important to understand because once you're in alignment with your goal, you'll realize there are a lot of different opportunities out there for you to achieve it but unfortunately people get something locked into their head about something that they think they have to do. They have to follow certain procedure in their career, they have to follow a textbook, they have to follow a guideline, well that's just not true.

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You have to do what you want to do and understand why you want to do it. That's where passion comes from. That's where being aligned like I like to say, being aligned with yourself. That's where it comes from. I liked engineering but I love what I do now, helping engineers. And as soon as I started doing this, I knew that I was going to do this for a long time it just feels perfect. It feels like you're in the zone. Those of you that might've heard that, when a basketball player can just shoot the ball, shoot the ball, shoot ball and make it, make it, make it because here she is just in the zone.

Anthony's Closing Remarks:

That's how it feels when you find your passion so those of you out there looking for your passion never give up. You may even consider coming on the show, visit engineeringcareercoach.com and you can contact us through the website and we'll try to get you on the show.

You can also get the session notes from today show engineeringcareercoach.com/session2

We'll list all the notes and any resources that we reference and I know many of you listen while commuting. But remember, as Steve Jobs said, ***"The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it."***

We'll see you next week on the engineering career coach podcast.

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