



The ENGINEERING CAREER COACH PODCAST SESSION #25

What To Do If You Are Not Getting The Engineering Design Experience You Need

Show notes at: engineeringcareercoach.com

Anthony's Upfront Intro: You are listening to *The Engineering Career Coach Podcast* with Anthony Fasano, session #25. In today's session I'm going to help a younger engineer deal with some challenges she's experiencing, including not getting the proper design experience she needs, trying to figure out what masters degree to pursue and also whether or not to leave a company too early. 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 welcome to session 25 of the TECC Podcast. I'm very excited about the session today. There's a lot of things to be learned from this coaching session with a younger engineer, which we'll get to just in a minute. But real quick before we dive in here, just a couple of quick announcements.

First of all as a thank you to listeners I always offer a free gift on my website, engineeringcareercoach.com/freegift. You go there, put in your name and email address and I will send you the three tolls that I used to become a partner in an engineering firm at the age of twenty-seven.

As far as events go, I'm putting on an event in San Diego in late September. It's going to have very successful engineers from all over Southern California. Business development, networking, communication skills those are just some of the topics that we're going to cover. We're taking a few tours and we're also going to have some dinner parties. So if you want to come out, meet some very motivated engineers, meet me, talk a little bit about your goals, have fun in the process please check out iecdfallmeetup.com. There's still time to get in and get your seat.

And the last announcement that I want to mention is really a thank you to all of you out there. Your response to this show has been amazing and many of you have helped me through the process of rewriting my book, *Engineering Your Own Success*. You've given me support. You've sent me some emails of encouragement. And I'm happy to say that my book, *Engineering Your Own Success*,

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I have finished the rewrite of it and it's in production right now. So it's only a few months away from being able to get out there. And I really put a lot of new information into this book and again it was

mostly because of my listeners and my subscribers on my website. I did several surveys and you told me what you wanted to hear. New sections about how to deal with your supervisor, productivity, time management and I got pretty personal with this book. I put screenshots of my calendar in there, some different productivity tricks that I use, my daily schedule by hour.

There's a lot of interesting stuff in the new edition of *Engineering Your Own Success*, which will be out in a few months and I will do for all of you a blog post within the next month or so with a bunch of excerpts from the productivity chapter because that's the one that a lot of people keep asking me about.

So with that, I'm not going to delay anymore. I've got a pretty long interview here with Trisha-Lynn who's the young engineer that I'm helping with in this session from South Africa. And just listen intently because there's a lot of nooks and crannies in this coaching session. It gets a little long. But lack of design experience is a big one. A lot of you probably encounter that and you can get some tips on that. Thinking about what master's degree to pursue and Trisha-Lynn wanted to go in a totally different direction than what I told her, so hopefully I think you'll realize that there was a reason I was steering her in the direction that I was. And then lastly, the whole idea of is it too early to leave a company? Is it going to look bad on a resume and are you going to be perceived as dishonest or not loyal to a company?

These are all important aspects of engineering. So please enjoy the session with Trisha-Lynn and at the end I will give you a career changing tip that will dramatically change your career and your life if you can implement it right away.

Coaching Segment:

Anthony: Alright, now it's time for our coaching segment of the show and today with me is Trisha-Lynn from South Africa. She is a Civil Structural Engineer. She graduated in 2010 and now works for a large International company in the mining and industrial field. She's a structural engineer for them. She's twenty-five years old.

And her challenge is she's having difficulty finding work in a first world country as an engineer, with this market and this economy and she's also wondering if you can't find the job that you want or have the experience that you want, what do you do? In other words, if you're a young engineer and you want to get to a certain place in your career, you need a certain level of experience. What if you can't

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get that right now because of the economy? So those are two excellent questions, challenges, goals that she has and we're going to try to help her to put together a plan to achieve them. So with that let me welcome in Trish. Hi Trish, how are you?

Trish: Well thanks and yourself Anthony?

Anthony: Doing very well, thank you. It's a pleasure to get to speak with you. Trish and I met on twitter some time ago, when my book *Engineering Your Own Success* came out and we've chatted a little bit but it's great to actually get to talk to her here over the phone. And Trish, why don't you take a few minutes here just to introduce yourself to our audience and talk a little bit more about the challenges you're having, in your own words.

Trish: Okay Anthony. Well, I graduated from The University of Cape Town in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. I've currently been working for about a year and a half, as Anthony said, for an International Consultancy, mainly in the mining and industrial sector. And right now with especially the mining sector doing very poorly in the market, it's very difficult for a lot of companies or a lot of clients to push forward with their projects.

So right now on the consultancy end we're struggling with not much projects to work on. And what I've noticed with myself and with a lot of other junior engineers is that we're not getting the correct experience that we need this early in our career to push us to the next level. So I guess that's the first challenge I want to tackle with you, Anthony.

Anthony: First of all your company's slow so your job could potentially be in jeopardy for sometime in the future and also, well you do want to get a job in a first world country but also you want to make sure that you're getting the right experience.

Trish: Experience, yes, yes.

Anthony: Okay.

Trish: I think that's more important to me than getting work in a first world country. It's to get the correct experience.

Anthony: Okay, so before we get into these challenges let's talk about your goals a little bit Trish. Tell me about your goals for yourself in the next few years in your engineering career. What is it that you're focusing on?

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Trish: Okay. I have a two-year vision and my two-year vision will enable me to get my professional license. So it's to be a well-rounded engineer. That's to have the correct site experience, the correct managerial experience and the correct design experience. So far I've had an opportunity to go to Madagascar on an expat assignment and I think it pushed me to the next level. I was thrown in the deep end and I think it's the best way to learn.

Anthony: Mmm, true.

Trish: But now I'm struggling with the design aspect because there aren't any projects. We aren't doing much design work. So it's quite difficult. So I'm putting a lot of my focus into becoming a better design engineer and ultimately I'd like to get myself into a first world country, where I can live and work and my goal is to achieve it in the next two years.

Anthony: And is part of those goals a license or certification?

Trish: To get your professional license in South Africa it's a minimum of four to five years with extensive training in the field and in the office and so far I've only done a year and a half so I've still got a while to go. But yes, everyday I wake up everything I have to do has to contribute to getting my license at the end of it.

Anthony: Okay, excellent. And tell me Trisha-Lynn why you want to go to a first world country to work.

Trish: It's mainly for personal reasons because I've lived in a third world country my entire life and I think I would have a better life in a first world country. I've visited and I quite like it. I quite like the lifestyle. Yeah, so it's mainly for personal reasons.

Anthony: Okay. So you're hoping that the move will improve the quality of your life overall?

Trish: Yes. Yes.

Anthony: Okay. Alright, great. So first of all I have to congratulate Trisha-Lynn because she has a vision and she has goals and unfortunately seven or eight out of every ten engineers that I talk to don't. They haven't thought about it. They haven't mapped anything out.

So if we kind of recap Trisha-Lynn's vision and her goals, overall she wants to become a very well rounded engineer, design, field experience, management experience, leadership, which is wonderful. And then if you drill down a little bit further, while that's kind of a long term goal for her, her short term goal is to, a couple things, one - she wants to relocate to a first world country and secondly she wants

to get her engineering license in South Africa. So she's very focused right now on getting that license and making a move to another country and both of them, which will contribute to her long-term goal of becoming a well-rounded engineer.

The importance of having these goals is very evident. Now everything her and I talk about on the rest of this call, it'll be easier for us to chart her path because we know where she ultimately wants to end up. So that's why I wanted to really start with those questions.

So first of all let's talk about her challenge of getting the right experience. And unfortunately in this economy a lot of engineers, a lot of younger engineers they can't get the jobs that are going to give them the experience to develop and achieve the goals they want to achieve. So for example Trisha-Lynn is in a job right now where she's not getting to do a lot of design experience, however she needs it. She needs it to get her license, which is going to help her hopefully get to another country or at least help her get on the path of her overall long-term goal. So how can she work on this? Trisha-Lynn right now out of all of your work how much design work do you get to do, if any?

Trish: Oh, I think about 20% out of all the work I do is design work and it's very small stuff.

Anthony: Okay. And you said you have a Bachelors degree in civil engineering, correct?

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: Have you ever considered the idea of getting a masters degree in structural engineering?

Trish: I've thought about it. I think I would prefer to get a masters in project management or an MBA.

Anthony: Okay.

Trish: To learn more about the business side of engineering. So if I do, which I'm hoping in the next five years, if I do a masters it would be a MBA or a masters in business engineering or project management.

Anthony: Engineering management. Okay.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: I think that that's a great idea. I think that that's a great strategy. The only thing that I'm going to just kind of caution you on from my experience working with structural engineers - and most of the people that I coach end up being in the United States.

Trish: Okay.

Anthony: In the United States when companies hire structural engineers it's not impossible but it's very difficult for you to get a job without the masters in structural engineering because a lot of the structural engineering companies feel that to be successful in the structural engineering field you almost have to have a masters as a base education because it's such a highly technical field.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: So, not saying you have to do that but just thinking along the lines of getting a masters degree in structural engineering as far as your goals go - one, it's going to improve your technical design work because you're going to get a lot of heavy technical design courses in the masters degree. Secondly, it should give you a much better chance at getting a job in the first world country, the United States, wherever it may be because I think it's a big boost in your resume to have that.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: So again, it's something to consider. I think getting an engineering management degree is a great idea and MBA is a great idea. I always recommend that to engineers. However, in your case I'm focusing specifically on your goals and we're trying to think about how you can get a job in a first world country and also how you can get experience that you're not getting and you're not getting design experience.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: So getting a masters in structural engineering is kind of a way of getting more design and technical experience regardless of what job you're in.

Trish: Okay.

Anthony: That's just one recommendation. So that's one thing you can possibly consider and see how that fits with what you want to do. Or the other possibility is not even getting a degree in structural engineering but at least taking a couple of courses to practice your design work and then down the road you may say, "You know what, I need the structural degree," or even on your resume. Let's say for example you start a masters in structural engineering. You just take one or two courses, right?

Trish: Yes.

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Anthony: On your resume you can then say that you're pursuing a masters degree in structural engineering, which will make you look a lot more valuable to some of these first world countries companies. But then you might get into a company and say, "Listen, I started my masters degree. It's going okay but I'm really considering strongly the leadership track and I'm getting my masters in business," or something like that. And then you can rethink about it. But right now the idea is to get that job.

Trish: Yes. I thought about that, doing my masters in structural engineering. The thing is when I started working I realized that as much as I do enjoy being an engineer and do enjoy doing the calcs and the technical stuff, I prefer doing the managerial role. And I found that out when I was on site that we did a lot of project management work and I loved it. I loved it more than the technical side. It was more challenging for me because the problems that you face on site and in the design office are two very different aspects and I like the pressure of working on site.

So I did think about that. I think that ultimately when I further my career I would like to be hopefully in a project managerial role rather than like the lead structural engineer.

Anthony: Okay. That's good. That's good information for me and that's something that all of you out there that are listening to this have to think about this. You have to consider what you really love to do as you chart your career, as you go down your path because I'm giving Trisha-Lynn some ideas and she's understanding whether or not they're going to help her because she knows what she really loves to do. And I guess a large reason that she knows that is because of the trip to Madagascar. Correct Trisha-Lynn?

Trish: Yes. Yeah, it really pushed me to the next level and I think that a lot of junior engineers out there should get that opportunity to go onto site and work in those conditions because it really, really opens your mind.

Anthony: No, that's great. You're right on. I mean you get the field experience right and then you feel like you know a lot more.

Trish: Yes, you become a better design engineer because you consider constructability and things that you wouldn't normally consider if you haven't seen it, if you haven't seen it done or you haven't seen the problems encountered onsite. So when you start designing you start thinking about what is going to go wrong on site, how can I mitigate that? I think you become a better design engineer.

Anthony: Right. No, I agree with you a hundred percent. Myself, in my civil engineering career, I started out as a surveyor in the field, surveyed a lot of sites and that helped me tremendously from the design aspect.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: But anyway, I just wanted to mention that for everyone out there is that you can't just go one direction. You've got to listen to your internal signals saying, telling you what you really like to do. So that being said Trisha-Lynn, one of the things, have you thought about the possibility of possibly pursuing your engineering career more in the construction management, project management type discipline rather than the structural engineering field when you look at different companies?

Trish: I haven't considered it, mainly because I'm still quite young and when companies look for project managers and construction managers they're looking for ten years experience. So it's what I've generally found that I'll still be a rookie for quite some time until I can pursue those roles.

Anthony: Yeah, that's true but I mean there are some very large construction management companies that are in first world countries all over the world that take on engineers at all age levels.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: I mean they need younger engineers. They need leaders. And the only reason I bring that up to you is because again I'm thinking about trying to help you achieve your goals as soon as you can with respect to getting to work in a first world country and also helping you to be able to do what you really enjoy doing. And I see working for a structural engineering firm in a first world country a big challenge without the masters degree because right now when you think about it there's a lot of competition. Obviously that's one of the challenges that you've told me about, about with the market and the economy it's difficult to get a job. So that being said, when a structural engineering company gets a bunch of structural engineering resumes right, they're going to weed them out.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: So what's going to happen is a lot of these people are going to have their master's degree and if you're not then they're probably not going to consider you over them.

Trish: Yes I agree.

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Anthony: So that's one big challenge that you're going to face. Now if I were in your shoes and you really like the construction management side of things you can certainly apply to some very large engineering...

Trish: Contactors.

Anthony: You know like the, whether it's the Turners, the Skanskas, big, big construction management companies like that, that take on younger engineers. They wouldn't necessarily be interested in you having to have a masters degree in structural engineering, however you could still potentially use your structural engineering and do a lot of design and design review that would give you the experience you need to get your license. It would help you to do what you're doing. I mean do what you love to do and also get you to another country. So just another avenue for you to consider.

Trish: Yes. Thank you for that. I think I haven't considered it before because I had my mind set on an EPCM company, where you get the full package of engineering, procurement and management.

Anthony: Right.

Trish: And those are, the EPCM companies aren't doing the best right now unless you're in the commercial sector. I think they're doing a little bit better.

Anthony: Right. So that's something to think about. And again, just because in an effort to try to achieve those goals and I guess along the lines of not getting the experience as far as the technical design work goes. I mean obviously you're doing as much technical work as you can, which is only about 20% of your time. It's a tricky situation because basically what you want to try to do is you want to try to get any exposure to design work that you can.

So obviously we talked a little bit about the masters degree option. Another option might be if there are organizations around you, volunteer organizations. For example I know that a lot of engineers that I talk to get involved with *Engineers Without Borders*.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: Which is a great organization that does, you know they do work for third world countries.

Trish: Yeah, no yeah.

Anthony: Are you aware of them?



Trish: Yes. Yes. I was with *Engineers Without Borders* for about three years.

Anthony: Oh okay. So you've done some stuff with them?

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: So one of the things you might think about doing is getting back involved with them and try to do design work on one of their projects, whatever they're working on, water treatment plants or whatever the case may be. And then on your resume you can - whether or not the country's going to accept that towards your license I don't know - but the point being is that you can always put that on your resume.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: And a company will see that and a company will take that into account. Because a lot of engineers that I talk to that do *Engineers Without Borders*, when they have an interview with a company they talk about that like the whole time.

Trish: Okay. It's what I do as well when I go for interviews. I talk about the organizations that I, so I do get that. What I try to do in my spare time is I just work a little bit later, like two hours later and I play around with some of the structural analysis programs to kind of get me to understand.

Anthony: And that's great and that's something that you can put on your resume Trisha-Lynn, that you know those programs, which will be helpful.

Trish: Yes. So I'm trying my best to work towards my goal.

Anthony: No. No, you're doing a great job. And this is one of the things you have to think about, everyone out there you have to think about this too, is that when you have a goal - and like for example your goal is to get this job in a first world country, to get your license, to become an engineer and a leader - is you have to think about how you position yourself to do that. You have to think about, you have to think of yourself as almost like your own company all the time. Like what are all the benefits that I can provide to people?

And doing some of the things that we talked about is going to help you because in other words if you go to a company, let's just say you go to a company and they're looking at ten, twenty engineers - you have to think to yourself how can I differentiate myself from these other engineers? So a couple things. First of all, your trip to Madagascar, your experience there is obviously going to be a big differentiator for you.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: You can put that on your resume. That's great. The structural engineering programs will be helpful but you want to get other things to help really differentiate you. So a couple things that we talked about - just to reiterate for those of you out there. The master's degree in structural could be very helpful for you at this stage of your career.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: Unless you end up going into the construction management field then maybe the engineering management or project management or MBA could be helpful to differentiate you. *Engineers Without Borders*, being an active member now with *Engineers Without Borders* can help you tremendously because it's going to give you design experience, hands on design experience that you're not getting 80% of the time.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: And also it's going to give you another differentiator when you go into an interview, when you apply on a resume you can say not only am I doing the work in the mining and industrial industry but I'm also designing the structural components of a water treatment plant through *Engineers Without Borders*. So now what that does for you is, because what happens if you go to work for, if you find a good structural engineering company let's say in New York City that wants to hire you and then they say something like, "You know she's structural but she's been really in the industrial field or more like in the waste water field."

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: "So now we have these other engineers. We have their resumes and they didn't really have the field experience that Trisha-Lynn has but they're in the water field." So now they can say, "Oh you know what but Trisha-Lynn also has done work in water resources through *Engineers Without Borders*, so she's got just as much experience as them."

Trish: Yeah, I see what you're saying.

Anthony: So you have to think about that. You have to think about how they're going to look at you, how they're going to compare you to other people and really ultimately what's going to make you stand out and differentiate you from the others. And I think that you're on the right track and you're doing a lot of the right things and I think if you add a couple other components to it, I think it might be

helpful for you. Like you're saying, "I spend two hours a day extra trying to get this structural program down," which is great but maybe like one of those hours a day is dedicated to doing *Engineers Without Borders* and working on some other type of design work or taking a couple courses in either engineering management or any other structural engineering.

Trish: Structural, yeah and the technical.

Anthony: Yeah, the technical track.

Trish: Okay. That's really good advice.

Anthony: Because the other question is, say someone comes to you and says, "Listen Trisha-Lynn, I noticed from your resume that in your job you haven't had a lot of technical experience. You had some field experience, which is great, but you haven't had a lot of technical experience. So how has that affected your career?" Then you can come back and say, "Well I haven't had a lot of technical experience in my day job but in addition to that I've taken several very heavy technical structural engineering master courses and I've also been very involved in *Engineers Without Borders*, where I am personally doing a structural design for a water treatment plan."

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: You see what I mean?

Trish: Yeah, I see it. Thank you for that.

Anthony: Alright.

Trish: I think I should explore my, the courses that are offered and I think just get more knowledge, technical knowledge.

Anthony: Yeah and if you think about it, listen the good thing about your situation is that you have very clearly defined goals. So when you have very clearly defined goals all the stuff that you and I are talking about, it becomes a little bit easier when you talk with someone else, like myself where we're talking back and forth, because you know where you want to go.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: So the encouraging part about this is that you have a very clear vision. Now it's just a matter of, it's kind of like a big engineering problem that you have to solve. How do I get there?

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: You plug in different equations. You try different things. And I think that some of these things we talked about hopefully will help you to get on the right track. Do you have any other questions, thought, comments?

Trish: Yes, I do have a question here.

Anthony: Sure.

Trish: Still on the subject of the work being very low. Because I've been working with the company that I'm with for a year and a half and I'm not getting the project experience that I would like, what is your take on that? Should I look for a job that I would get, maybe in the commercial sector? Or I mean I feel that I shouldn't. I feel that I should ride it out but you know mainly because it wouldn't reflect very well on my resume. It wouldn't really reflect well on my loyalty towards the company on bad times. I'm struggling with that, with that concept of what I should do when times are tough in your company and you're a junior engineer and you're not on the correct learning curve that you should be on and you want to leave because there are better options out there. What do you do?

Anthony: That's a great question. So for those of you out there listening, do you take a job that might be better fit for you, better fit for your goals or do you try to ride it out with a company to get some more experience, to remain loyal? I think the answer to the question, from my standpoint I always say that listen you have a goal in your career or goals or a vision, you have to do whatever you have to do to put yourself in the best position to succeed and achieve that goal. So in this situation though that doesn't necessarily mean that you should get a better job. A couple things to think about. First of all, you said you were with this company how long? A year and a half?

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: Okay. The one thing you want to avoid on your resume is jumping around to different companies for short periods of time, right.

Trish: Yeah, exactly. Yes.

Anthony: Which is a big one. However on the other end of it, if you were to find a job at a company in South Africa that provided you the ability to do design work and it was a good company, then I think there's nothing wrong with taking that job because when you go to an interview if someone says to you, "Well Trisha-Lynn we noticed that you were with your first company for a year and a half and

then you left." They would say, "What was the reason for that," and you can say, "Well my goal is to become a leader as a structural engineer and I didn't feel I was getting, only about 20% of my work was design work and because I want to get my license that really wasn't helping me along that track so I felt that it was a better career decision for me to be able to reach my goal of getting licensed and becoming a leader in the industry."

So in your case you would have a very good excuse on your resume because you're not getting the design experience you want. So I guess my answer to you is that if you can find a job in South Africa that's going to give you more design experience and help you, put you in a better position to achieve your goals I would definitely consider taking it.

Trish: Okay.

Anthony: Alright.

Trish: Even though it might burn bridges at your previous company, which you don't want to do?

Anthony: The bottom line is that if you leave the company you would say something then like, "Listen, I love working here. I had a great experience here. Unfortunately I want to get my engineering license and I'm just not getting enough design work here." I mean one of the things that you could do if it makes you feel better is you could have a talk with them now and say, "Listen, I'm only getting about 20% design experience. I know that we're slow but if anything becomes available I'd be very interested in doing it because I really want to work towards my license."

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: So then if you do find a better opportunity you can go to them and at least say, "Listen, I mentioned to you in the past that I really want to get my license and if you had any more design work I would do it and I understand that times are rough right now, we don't have a lot of work. I happened to get another opportunity that's going to give me 80-100% design work in my career right now and really from a younger engineer and where I'm at, I really need that. So I love this company. I would even entertain the possibility of coming and working with you in the future again but for me right now in my career I need to make this move."

Trish: Okay.

Anthony: If it's a good company they're going to understand it, they're going to wish you well and I mean I left a company like that myself and we left on very good terms and I ended up going back there and working for them again.

Trish: Okay.

Anthony: So just because you're leaving a company doesn't mean that the bridges are going to be burned. It all depends on how you do it.

Trish: Yes, I agree with that. Okay.

Anthony: Alright. So having a conversation with them right now might be helpful for that.

Trish: I think I've spoke to my boss about it and...

Anthony: So you've already mentioned it.

Trish: No. Yes, I've mentioned that I haven't been getting design experience. I think I've been complaining for quite some time now.

Anthony: Okay, that's fine. Then they're aware of it so if something were to come up for you where an opportunity where you were getting it they should be understanding of that.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: And if they're not Trisha-Lynn then that starts a whole other question is to, you know it may not be the best place to work.

Trish: Yeah, that's true.

Anthony: Anything else before we let you go here?

Trish: No, I think that's it. I think that you've given me some really good tips on how I can stand out when I start applying for work opportunities in a first world country. I'm just quite scared about the masters, the whole studying again, so I think that's why I haven't really put it in my mind so much bit I think that it helps that you've said that to me.

Anthony: Why are you scared about it?

Trish: It's taking a whole two years off of work to go back to studying.

Anthony: Oh, you have to do it full time there?

Trish: You can do it part time but I think if I want to start studying again I think it'll be too much work if I do it part time. It'll take ages, like years, four years I think to get my masters.

Anthony: Yeah, but what I would consider doing if I were you, I would consider doing it part time and I would just take one class right now and I would just start because you're not sure what you want to do yet. You're interested in project management quite a bit.

Trish: Yeah.

Anthony: So if you leave your engineering career right now and go back to school full time I think it's going to hurt you because it's going to prolong everything that you want to do.

Trish: Yes.

Anthony: And it's going to take away from your experience. If I were you I would just take a course or two so that you can put it on your resume that you're working towards a masters in structural engineering.

Trish: Okay.

Anthony: And it will give you some technical experience. But I don't know that getting the degree, you'll have to get the degree all the way or not. It's a potentially, depends on what you do with the company and where you go with the next company. But definitely if I were in your shoes I wouldn't go back full time. I would just start simple, just start the one class.

Trish: Okay.

Anthony: That's it.

Trish: Okay, I'll do that.

Anthony: Alright?

Trish: Okay, that's good advice. Okay. Thank you Anthony.

Anthony: Alright, so for everyone here, we're just finishing up here with Trisha-Lynn and I think the key thing we can all take out of today is when you have clear goals, which thankfully Trisha-Lynn has, you have to figure out how you can achieve them, how you can put yourself in the best position to



achieve them. And often times that means you're going to have to differentiate yourself from other people in the industry and make yourself stand out to a different company and that's what you have to remember.

And if you listen to this episode you will understand ways you can do that because we went over a lot of ways. And you can get the show notes for the episode, which will describe everything in detail, written out on the website at engineeringcareercoach.com and click on the podcast tab. Thanks a lot Trisha-Lynn. It was great to have you on the show.

Trish: Thank you very much Anthony for the opportunity. I really appreciate it and thank you for the great advice.

Anthony: Alright, before I get into the career changing tip for today I just want to give you a preview of the next show. In the next show I'm going to share a five-step process that I used to overcome addiction to email. Probably one of the most important podcast sessions that I'll ever do because it was a huge thing for me and I'm sure many of you have the same challenge of being addicted to email and I want to help you to overcome it, and I'm going to do that in the next show. So with that it's time for our career changing tip.

Anthony's Career Changing Tip:

Alright, it's time for the career changing tip and this is the part of the show where I try to give out one tip that if you implement it you will see dramatic changes in your career and life. And today's tip is simple. Tomorrow morning when you wake up I want you to say to yourself, "What is one thing that I can do today to move me closer to my goals?" And I want you to write down what that one thing is and I want you to do everything and anything that you have to do to get it done tomorrow.

And I want you to repeat this process everyday because this is going to do two things for you. One, it's going to ensure of course that you're moving closer to your goals by promoting action everyday. But more importantly is what is this going to do for you big picture? It's going to make sure that you have goals. You can't answer that question unless you know what your goals are.

And if there's one thing that you took out of this whole podcast today - all the little things that we talked about with the masters degree and design experience - it should really be that Trisha-Lynn had such clear goals that she's able to make decisions easier, is able to be smarter about it because she said right off the bat, "I have a two year vision." How many people do you know say that to you? Not many. I can tell you that right now and this is coming from someone that works with engineers all the time. So please, every single day move closer to your goals and in order to do that set extremely clear goals.



Anthony's Closing Remarks:

So thanks so much for hanging out with us today. I do want to mention one other thing I forgot to mention at the beginning of the show when I talked about the meet-up I'm throwing in San Diego in September for engineers. If the only thing holding you back from coming to San Diego is money, please don't let that be a factor. Please send me an email at afasano@powerfulpurpose.com and we can work out some kind of long-term financing plan to get you to the event. That's the last thing I want to happen.

The point of this event, the point of putting the effort into bringing all these engineering speakers together is that there's engineers in the seats there that are going to transform themselves. And I don't want a couple hundred dollars preventing you from getting there so please feel free to reach out to me. We'll work with you. We'll get you there.

Let's have some fun and let's help you to succeed in your career. Until then I'm going to see you on the next session of The Engineering Career Coach Podcast.

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