



The Contagious Nature of Passion

By Andrea Zeller

What actions inspire you and keeps your optimism flowing? How is your mood affected by those around you? Think about it a moment.

We all face struggles during our lives. And today, many are struggling through the current economic downturn. Business leaders have an inspirational effect on us, especially during difficult times. Leaders are likely very passionate about their work and the people that work with them. Their passion inspires and is contagious. A passionate leader has a positive effect upon everyone that comes into contact with them; it is hard to stay down in the face of passion.

I see this demonstrated all the time at our Women's Business Partners Center. Many of our clients have faced domestic violence, serious setbacks from health issues, divorce, financial crises etc... The list is long and daunting. Yet I consistently see our clients synergizing and becoming inspired by the confidence, successes and passion of our successful business owners and leaders. Aspiring business women catch the fever of passion through the stories of San Luis Obispo accomplished business women at our Roundtables. Mentors consistently nurture protégés providing encouragement to help the nascent business owners grow, develop, thrive and be successful. And MCSC's small business advisors and instructors provide tools and engage innovative minds building hope and optimism every day at the Center. Clients learn to leave adversity behind them and focus on growth and possibilities.

No doubt, these feelings of enthusiasm and inspiration stay in their mind for a long time, allowing passion to grow and deepen. Our passion is contagious to those around us; our families, friends, professional peers, employees, customers and suppliers. So remember passion inspires others, stimulates creativity and innovation and can be the seeds of hope for tomorrow.

With the current economic stresses, passion is the solution for restoring our communities - reach out support and inspire one another! Wealth in spirit (as well as our pocketbooks) sprouts from healthy surrounding influences within close knit communities. This is a time to exude passion and confidence, a time to believe in one another, a time to reach out and support one another. Sow seeds of hope today by living your passion!

Andrea Zeller, Executive Director of Mission Community Services (MCSC), coordinates Women's Business Partners (WBP) to ensure all community resources are leveraged and optimized to support entrepreneurial women. WBP serves everyone interested in establishing self-sufficiency through small business ownership. WBP can take you step by step towards success and can help those who speak only Spanish. Visit www.MCSCCorp.org or call 595-1357 to find out more.